

SHARK REPRODUCTION

Sharks reproduce in three main ways:

1. Viviparous

(Give birth to live young)

Young (pups) develop inside the mother's placenta and are born live, similar to how humans give birth. Like you, these sharks may have a belly button!!!

Approx. 70% of sharks, including: Bull Sharks, Hammerhead Sharks



2. Oviparous

(Lay eggs externally)

The female shark lays eggs. The egg is a tough, protective capsule that contains a developing shark and a yolk sac which the young gets its nutrition from. After it has eaten all of the yolk, the shark hatches as a fully formed mini shark. These shark eggs are commonly called mermaid's purses and can be found on beaches.

Our bamboo sharks are oviparous!



3. Ovoviviparous

(Produces an egg which hatches within the body of the mother)

A mixture of the above two methods. The female carries the eggs inside her body where the pups hatch. They live on yolk and (in some species) the other hatched pups (eek!!) - enabling the strongest pups to survive until they are then born live. They swim quickly away, in case their mother decides to eat them!

Great White, Tiger and Greenland and Whale Sharks are ovoviviparous

