It’s best to stay pregnant for at least 39 weeks.

Lots of important things are happening to your baby in the last few weeks of pregnancy:

1. Important organs, like your baby’s brain, lungs and liver, are still developing and growing.

   A baby’s brain at 35 weeks weighs only two-thirds of what it will weigh at 39 to 40 weeks.

   35 weeks  39 to 40 weeks

   39 weeks give your baby all the time he needs to grow before he’s born. Talk to your provider about things you can do to help you and your baby get to 39 weeks. Births scheduled before 39 weeks should only be for medical reasons.

2. Your baby’s eyes and ears are still developing, too. Babies born too early are more likely to have vision and hearing problems later in life.

3. Your baby is still learning to suck and swallow. Babies born early sometimes can’t do these things.