

Measuring Fetal Heart Tones

A normal fetal heart tone range is between 110-160 beats per minute. Below you can review the different types of devices that can be used to monitor fetal heart tones during pregnancy.

DOPPLER

A **Doppler** can be used as early as 10 weeks gestation. However, it's preferred to use at 12 weeks and requires a gel to be applied to the tip of the device for proper use.



FETOSCOPE

A **Fetoscope** is most effective after 18-20 weeks gestation. This device works like a traditional stethoscope. However, this instrument has a trumpet-like end that goes on the abdomen to find the fetal heart rate.



PINARD HORN

A **Pinard Horn** can be used after 16 weeks. Some midwives say it works best after 26-28 weeks. Very similar to a fetoscope, this instrument does not require gels or other agents to use.

