

Below are definitions and information regarding various common neonatal reflexes:

Reflex Name	Palmar Grasp Reflex	Spinal Galant Reflex	Tonic Labyrinthine Reflex	Moro Reflex or "Startle" Reflex
Age reflex appears and then disappears	Appears around 16 weeks in utero and remains until 5-6 months of age	Develops in utero and remains until 9 months of age	Develops in utero and remains until 4 months of age	Develops in utero at 9-12 weeks and remains until 4 months of age
Definition of reflex	When pressure is applied to the infant's palm, infant should close fist and open mouth	When the lower back is stroked next to the spine, the infant will curve their hip outward (lateral trunk flexion)	This reflex has two forms. FORWARD: as the head bends forward, the whole body, arms, legs, and torso curl inward in the characteristic fetal position. BACKWARD: as the head bends backwards, the whole body will straighten and extend	When a sudden change in sensory stimuli occurs, the infant's arms and legs open upward and away from the body, rapidly. These movements are often followed by a quick breath, then a freezing of the arms and legs in the outward position
Purpose of the reflex	Helps infant coordinate movements involving grasp and the mouth, such as feeding	Encourages movement and develops range of motion in hips in preparation for walking and crawling	Provides infant with important information about gravity and helps infant master head and neck movement	Elicits a quick response to a perceived threat that awakens the infant's survival system
Possible effects if reflex is unintegrated	Poor fine motor skills, tension of the jaw, speech delay, drooling, swallowing problems	Inability to sit still, bed wetting, hip rotation to one side, scoliosis, hyperactivity	Shrunk posture, balance and coordination problems, toe walking, motion sickness	Sleep disturbances, difficulty catching a ball, poor stamina, motion sickness

****Not all possible effects of unintegrated reflexes are included above. If you are concerned that you or your child may have unintegrated reflexes, please contact an Occupational Therapist or other professional trained to address unintegrated reflexes.**

All information retrieved from:

Sonia, S. (2011). The importance of integrated reflexes. Retrieved from: www.moveplaythrive.com. & Nall, R. (2014) Neonatal Reflexes. Retrieved from: <http://www.healthline.com/health/neonatal-reflexes>