

### What's in the Pouch?

Did you know that when a baby kangaroo is born it is pink, hairless, and the size of a grape? Baby kangaroos are called joeys. When joeys are born they weigh less than an ounce. The mother kangaroo can't even touch the baby because it is so small. She licks her fur to make a path from her tail to her pouch. The joey follows this path and reaches the mother's pouch three to four minutes after birth. The pouch protects the joey from predators and the weather. The pouch is like a heating pad or an electric blanket. The baby begins drinking milk as soon as it reaches the pouch. The joey will drink milk until it is twelve to eighteen months old. As the joey grows, its head and feet begin to show, while it is in the pouch. The joey usually leaves the pouch between eight to twelve months.



**What is the main idea of this paragraph?**  
*Choose the BEST answer.*

- Baby kangaroos are called joeys.
- Mother kangaroos care for their newborn babies by protecting and feeding them in their pouch.
- Joeys leave the pouch when they do not fit anymore.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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