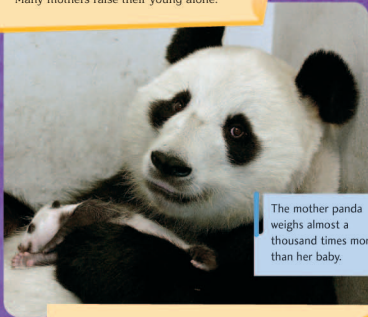


Marvellous mothers

Most parenting care comes from the mother. Many mothers raise their young alone.



The mother panda weighs almost a thousand times more than her baby.

The giant panda gives birth to the tiniest cub. The cub is born blind and helpless and it has a very loud piercing cry, a bit like a human baby. The panda is a very attentive mother; she carries her baby gently in her mouth everywhere she goes for the first few weeks.

A baby kangaroo is only about 2.5 centimetres long when it is born. It crawls up to its mother's pouch where it lives and feeds on its mother's milk. When the young kangaroo, or joey, is about 6 months old it leaves the pouch for short periods of time. It jumps back in when it wants to feed or feel safe. Eventually the mother decides not to let the joey back in, so then it must become independent.



The joey lives in its mother's pouch for about 9 months.



Female scorpions carry their eggs in a pouch. When they hatch the young crawl out and climb up onto their mother's back.

The tiny scorpions stay on their mother's back for about two weeks.