

How Do Spiders Care For Their Young?



Study*ladder*

Mating

Male spiders are often smaller than the females of the species. Some male spiders go to great efforts to perform mating dances for the female spider. Some spiders will beat out special vibrations on the web to let the female know he is not prey.

Many need to run away quickly after mating as the female spider can attack and eat the male spider if he is not careful!



Female spiders are generally larger than the male of the species. There may also be differences in color or markings.





Spiders produce silk to wrap around their eggs. These cases are called egg sacs and they help protect the fragile eggs.

Some spiders hang their egg sacs in the web and guard them. Some spiders leave their egg sacs to hatch by themselves.

Some female spiders die after they produce their egg sacs. Some become the first meal for their babies.





Some spiders carry their egg sacs around with them, to protect them until they hatch.

When the baby spiders hatch from the egg sacs they can be tiny, depending on their species! Baby spiders are called spiderlings.

Some spiderlings fend for themselves and travel to new locations by walking or 'ballooning' through the air on a fine thread of silk. (Much like a dandelion seed!)



Some spiders, like this wolf spider, carry their spiderlings on their backs.



Spiderlings after hatching in the web



Spiderlings, close up view