

# Hatching

The eggs remain in the nest for between two and three months, depending on the species of alligator or crocodile. Just before hatching, the young alligators or crocodiles inside the eggs make lots of high-pitched sounds. These sounds tell the mother that they are about to hatch. She uses her legs to dig up the nest and help her hatchlings get to the surface. Often, she pushes her snout into the nest to find the eggs.

Hatchlings break out of their eggs by using a special egg tooth at the end of their jaw.



## Alligator and

If baby crocodiles are in danger, the mother flips them into her mouth for protection.

## crocodile fact

Sometimes a hatchling can't break out of its egg. The mother takes the egg gently in her mouth and rolls it backward and forward on her tongue. This opens the shell and allows the hatchling to break free.

Once they have hatched, the mother picks up the hatchlings and carries them to water.

