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# Chipmunks and Their Behavior

By Aubrey S.

One day in mid-April around noon, an immature chipmunk walked into the edge of the driveway and started to sniff around the wood pile. According to my research, it takes 10 days for a chipmunk's hair, stripes, and teeth to grow in. This chipmunk had hair and stripes so I knew that the chipmunk was at least 10 days old. The chipmunk was curiously exploring around the wood pile because the wood pile was new and it had never been there before.



Photo from [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)

After about 5 minutes of inspecting, the chipmunk disappeared. After 5 more minutes went by, the chipmunk reappeared. My brother, Kason, approached the rodent. I anticipated that the chipmunk would run away. However, the chipmunk did not react like other chipmunks would by running away to cover. This chipmunk stayed put until my brother was only a few steps away. Then, it took a few steps to the side and stopped again. When chipmunks face a threat, they make a short choppy sound called chucking. This chipmunk did not make a "chucking" sound. Instead, it allowed a human to get close and not scurry away.

The next day, at around noon again, we saw the chipmunk again and that there were about 6 or 7 more of them. These chipmunks were also babies. The chipmunks behaved about the same way as they did the day before except, there was a new pattern. The chipmunks would not come into the open, they stayed in the holes and covered areas.

Based on this change in behavior, I suspect that the chipmunks were hiding from predators. Chipmunk predators include snakes, dogs, cats, lynxes, bobcats, racoons, coyotes, foxes, weasels, hawks, and owls. I can come down to the conclusion that baby chipmunks are not as skittish or scared as grown mature chipmunks; yet, they are still cautious about staying safe from predators and finding cover. I suggest this would apply to other babies also because they don't know better about the dangers around them yet until they can grow up to be grown and mature. This says that babies are naturally curious but still pay attention to their surroundings.

This makes me wonder: if the chipmunks were hiding from their predators, why were the chipmunks not afraid or scared of a human? Maybe it is because they are just babies and they don't know the difference between human and animal predators.

I do not plan on continuing my investigation. I have not seen the chipmunks since.

Sources:

- <https://www.psu.edu/dept/nkbiology/naturetrail/speciespages/chipmunk.htm>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESJaPmfbius>
- <https://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/stories/10-things-you-dont-know-about-chipmunks>