

FOR SUCCESSFUL BREASTFEEDING

Contact your health care providers if you do not see the following things. They may instruct you to supplement with formula or pumped milk (not water) if your baby is not wetting his/her diaper or having stools as noted below, or is still hungry after frequent nursing. One half to one ounce of supplement is probably adequate after breastfeeding on the second to third day of life. Once your milk has come in, your breastfed baby should gain an ounce a day for the first few months of life.

	First 8 hours	8-24 hours	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6 onward
Milk supply	You may be able to express a few drops of milk.			Milk <u>should</u> come in between the 2 nd and 4 th day.		Milk should be in. Breasts may be firm and/or leak milk.	Breasts should feel softer after nursing.
Baby's activity	Baby is usually wide awake in the first hour of life. Put baby to breast within a half to one hour of birth.	Wake up your baby. Babies may not wake up on their own to feed.	Baby should be more cooperative and less sleepy.	Look for early feeding cues such as rooting, lip smacking, and hands to face.		You should be able to hear your baby swallow your milk.	Baby should appear satisfied after feedings.
Feeding routine	Baby may go into a deep sleep 2-4 hours after birth.	Feed your baby every 1½ -3 hrs, as often as wanted, a minimum of 8-12 times each day.	Use breastfeeding chart to write down time and length of each feeding.			May go one longer interval (up to 5 hours) between feeds in a 24-hour period.	
Breastfeeding	Baby will wake up and be alert and responsive for several more hours after initial deep sleep.	As long as Mom is comfortable, nurse at both breasts as long as baby is actively sucking.	Try to nurse both sides each feeding aiming for 10 minutes each side. Expect some nipple tenderness.	Consider hand expressing or pumping a few drops of milk to soften the nipple if the breast is too firm for your baby to latch on.	Nurse a minimum of 10-15 minutes each side every 2-3 hours for the first few months of life.		Mom's nipple tenderness is improving or is gone.
Baby's urine output		Baby must have a minimum of 1 wet diaper in first 24 hours.	Baby must have at least one wet diaper every 8-12 hours.	You should see an increase in wet diapers to 4-6 times in 24 hours.	Baby's urine should be light yellow.	Baby should have 6-8 wet diapers each day of colorless or light yellow urine.	
Baby's stools		Baby should have a black-green stool (meconium stool).	Baby may have a second very dark (meconium) stool.	Baby's stool should be changing color from black-green to yellow.		Baby should have 3-4 yellow, soft stools a day.	The number of stools may decrease gradually after 4-6 weeks of life.

Prepared by Lisbeth Gabrielski, RN, BSN, IBCLC, Lactation Support Service, The Children's Hospital, Denver, CO. Copyright © 1994. All rights reserved. Revised 4/95. Used with permission.