

Insert from the Baby Friendly Initiative: Infant feeding and Relationships

Breastfeeding assessment form

How you and your health visitor can recognise that your baby is feeding well			This assessment tool was developed for use in or around day 10-14	
What to look for/ask about	✓	✓		
Your baby: has at least 8 -12 feeds in 24 hours	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wet nappies: Nappies should feel heavy. To get an idea of how this feels take a nappy and add 2-4 tablespoons of water as this will help you know what to expect.	
is generally calm and relaxed when feeding and content after most feeds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
will take deep rhythmic sucks and you will hear swallowing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
will generally feed for between 5 and 40 minutes and will come off the breast spontaneously	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
has a normal skin colour and is alert and waking for feeds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Has regained birth weight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Your baby's nappies: At least 6 heavy, wet nappies in 24 hours	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stools/dirty nappies: By day 10-14 babies should pass frequent soft runny yellow stools every day with 2 stools being the minimum you would expect. After 4-6 weeks when breastfeeding is more established this may change with some babies going a few days or more without stooling. Breastfed babies are never constipated and when they do pass a stool it will still be soft, yellow and abundant.	
At least 2 dirty nappies in 24 hours, at least £2 coin size, yellow and runny and usually more	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feed frequency: Young babies will feed often and the pattern and number of feeds will vary from day to day. Being responsive to your baby's need to breastfeed for food, drink, comfort and security will ensure you have a good milk supply and a secure happy baby.	
Your breasts:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Breasts and nipples are comfortable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Nipples are the same shape at the end of the feed as the start	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
How using a dummy/nipple shields/infant formula can impact on breastfeeding?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Care plan commenced: Yes/No	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Date	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Health visitor initials	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Health visitor: If any responses not ticked: watch a full breastfeed, develop a care plan including revisiting positioning and attachment and/or refer for additional support. Consider specialist support if needed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		