

# Conversations for the health visiting team: Key points

Remember: explore what parents already know → accept → offer relevant information\*

All breastfeeding mother/baby dyads should have a feeding assessment using the breastfeeding assessment form during the new birth visit and an appropriate plan of care made.

This may include referral for additional/specialist support

## New birth visit

**All mothers** are offered support and information on:

- The importance of closeness and responsiveness for mother-baby well-being
- How to hold their baby for feeding
- Responsive feeding
- Where to access feeding and social support within the local area
- Caring for their baby at night

**All breastfeeding mothers** are offered support and information on:

- Why hand expression is a useful skill and how to do it
- How to recognise effective feeding
- The value of breastfeeding

**Mothers who formula feed** are offered support to

- Sterilise equipment and make up feeds
- Feed their baby first milks
- Limit the number of people who feed their baby

Signature:

Date:

Comments:

## Continued breastfeeding

**All mothers** are offered support and information on:

- Appropriate introduction of solid foods

**All breastfeeding mothers** are offered support and information on:

- Feeding whilst out and about
- Maximising breastmilk if other milks have been introduced
- Continuing to breastfeed upon return to work

Signature:

Date:

Comments:

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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		
<b>What to look for/ask about</b>	√	√			
<b>Your baby:</b> has at least 8 -12 feeds in 24 hours					<b>Wet nappies:</b>  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					
will take deep rhythmic sucks and you will hear swallowing					<b>Stools/dirty nappies:</b>  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.
will generally feed for between 5 and 40 minutes and will come off the breast spontaneously					
has a normal skin colour and is alert and waking for feeds					
Has regained birth weight					
<b>Your baby's nappies:</b> At least 6 heavy, wet nappies in 24 hours					<b>Feed frequency:</b> 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.
At least 2 dirty nappies in 24 hours, at least £2 coin size, yellow and runny and usually more					
<b>Your breasts:</b> Breasts and nipples are comfortable					<b>Care plan commenced:</b> Yes/No
Nipples are the same shape at the end of the feed as the start					
How using a dummy/nipple shields/infant formula can impact on breastfeeding?					
<b>Date</b>					
<b>Health visitor initials</b>					