Nursing Best Practice Guideline

Infant Breastfeeding Assessment Tool (IBFAT)

Reprinted from: Matthews, M.K. (1988). Developing an instrument to assess infant breastfeeding behaviour in the early neonatal period. *Midwifery*, 4(4), 154-165, with permission of Elsevier.

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Check the score which best describes the baby's feeding behaviours at this feed.

	3	2		0
In order to get baby to feed:	Placed the baby on the breast as no effort was needed.	Used mild stimulation such as unbundling, patting or burping.	Unbundled baby, sat baby back and forward, rubbed baby's body or limbs vigorously at beginning and during feeding.	Could not be aroused.
Rooting	Rooted effectively at once.	Needed coaxing, prompting or encouragement.	Rooted poorly even with coaxing.	Did not root.
How long from placing baby on breast to latch & suck?	0 – 3 minutes.	3 – 10 minutes.	Over 10 minutes.	Did not feed.
Sucking pattern	Sucked well throughout on one or both breasts.	Sucked on & off but needed encouragement.	Sucked poorly, weak sucking; sucking efforts for short periods.	Did not suck.

MOTHER'S EVALUATION

How do you feel about the way the baby fed at this feeding?3 - Very pleased2 - Pleased1 - Fairly pleased

0 – Not pleased

IBFAT assigns a score, 0,1,2, or 3 to five factors. Scores range from 0 to 12. The mother's evaluation score is not calculated in the IBFAT score.



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