



FIG 7-8 **A**, Plantar or grasp reflex. **B**, Babinski reflex.

1, Direction of stroke. 2, Dorsiflexion of big toe. 3, Fanning of toes. (A, From Zitelli BJ, McIntire SC, Nowalk AJ: *Zitelli and Davis' atlas of pediatric physical diagnosis*, ed 6, St Louis, 2012, Saunders/Elsevier.)

These reflexes, as well as several local reflexes, are described in [Table 7-2](#). Record and report the absence, asymmetry, persistence, or weakness of a reflex.

Transitional Assessment: Periods of Reactivity

Newborns exhibit behavioral and physiologic characteristics that may at first appear to be signs of stress. However, during the initial 24 hours, changes in heart rate, respiration, motor activity, color, mucus production, and bowel activity occur in an orderly, predictable sequence that is normal and indicates lack of stress.

For 6 to 8 hours after birth, the newborn is in the first period of reactivity. During the first 30 minutes, the infant is very alert, cries vigorously, may suck his or her fingers or fist, and appears very interested in the environment. At this time, the newborn's eyes are usually open, making this an excellent opportunity for the mother, father, and child to see each other. Because the healthy newborn has a vigorous suck, this is also an opportune time to begin breastfeeding. The infant will usually grasp the nipple quickly, satisfying both the mother and the infant. This is particularly important to point out to the parents because after this initially