

done in the hospital with the goal of maintaining the bond between siblings that was formed in utero (Fig. 7-17). Much research is focused on exploring the safety and benefits of the practice of co-bedding (Hayward, Campbell-Yeo, Price, et al, 2007) (see also Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Chapter 10); however, the American Academy of Pediatrics Task Force on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (2011) has recommended against families co-bedding with infants at home. Because neither the safety nor the benefits of co-bedding for newborns has been documented in the literature, the Academy recommends families are counseled to follow safe sleeping practices, which currently dictate that infants sleep alone for optimal safety.



FIG 7-17 Newborn twins are placed in same bed during the newborn transition period.

Another area of attachment that has received minimal attention is maternal bonding of multiparous mothers. Research suggests that there are several additional tasks to “taking on” a second child. These include:

- Promoting acceptance and approval of the second child
- Grieving and resolving the loss of an exclusive dyadic relationship with the first child
- Planning and coordinating family life to include a second child
- Reformulating a relationship with the first child
- Identifying with the second child by comparing this child with the first child in terms of physical and psychological characteristics