

Place infant's hand or a pacifier in mouth when sucking movements are observed or during gavage feeding.

Place one or two drops of milk in infant's mouth with each tube feeding.

Provide nonnutritive sucking at mother's breast.

## Visual

Reduce light levels and protect eyes from direct lights, such as examination or procedure lights.

Place photographs of parents and siblings in visual range (19 to 22 cm [7.5 to 8.5 inches]) in en face position (maintain for short periods when awake and alert; constant picture in close proximity may be too much stimulus).

Initiate eye contact; repeat as tolerated once the infant reaches equivalent of 30 weeks of gestation. Monitor carefully for stress responses.

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\*Suggested infant relaxation music: *Heartbeat Lullabies* by Terry Woodford. Available from Baby-Go-To-Sleep Center, Audio Therapy Innovations, Inc., PO Box 550, Colorado Springs, CO 80901; 800-537-7748; <http://www.babygotosleep.com>.

Developmental care of preterm neonates is an ongoing process in the NICU and is incorporated into the daily care given to each infant. The nurse is cognizant of the preterm infant's developmental needs, temperament, and newborn state, as well as environmental conditions that adversely affect the infant; nursing care is planned accordingly to enhance optimum physical, psychosocial, and neurologic development. This task is often difficult to accomplish when invasive treatments or interventions are required to stabilize the critically ill neonate.

## Family Support and Involvement

Professional health workers often are so absorbed in the lifesaving