

# **Assessment of Neonatal Sucking Patterns: Normal, Disorganized, and Dysfunctional**

## **Day 1 of the NOMAS® Certification Course**

Presented by Marjorie Meyer Palmer, M.A.  
Speech Pathologist  
NOMAS® Instructor

### **Goals and Objectives:**

At the end of this one day presentation the participant will:

- 1) Describe the anatomy and physiology of the oral mechanism in the term infant;
- 2) Explain the changing anatomy and physiology of the oral mechanism from birth to six months and its impact on oral feeding development;
- 3) Outline the relationship between non-nutritive and nutritive sucking;
- 4) Differentiate the oral-motor characteristics of the disorganized from the dysfunctional nutritive suck in the neonate.

# **Developmental Readiness to Feed: Anatomic and Physiologic Considerations**

Presented by **Marjorie Meyer Palmer, M.A.**  
Neonatal and Pediatric Feeding Specialist

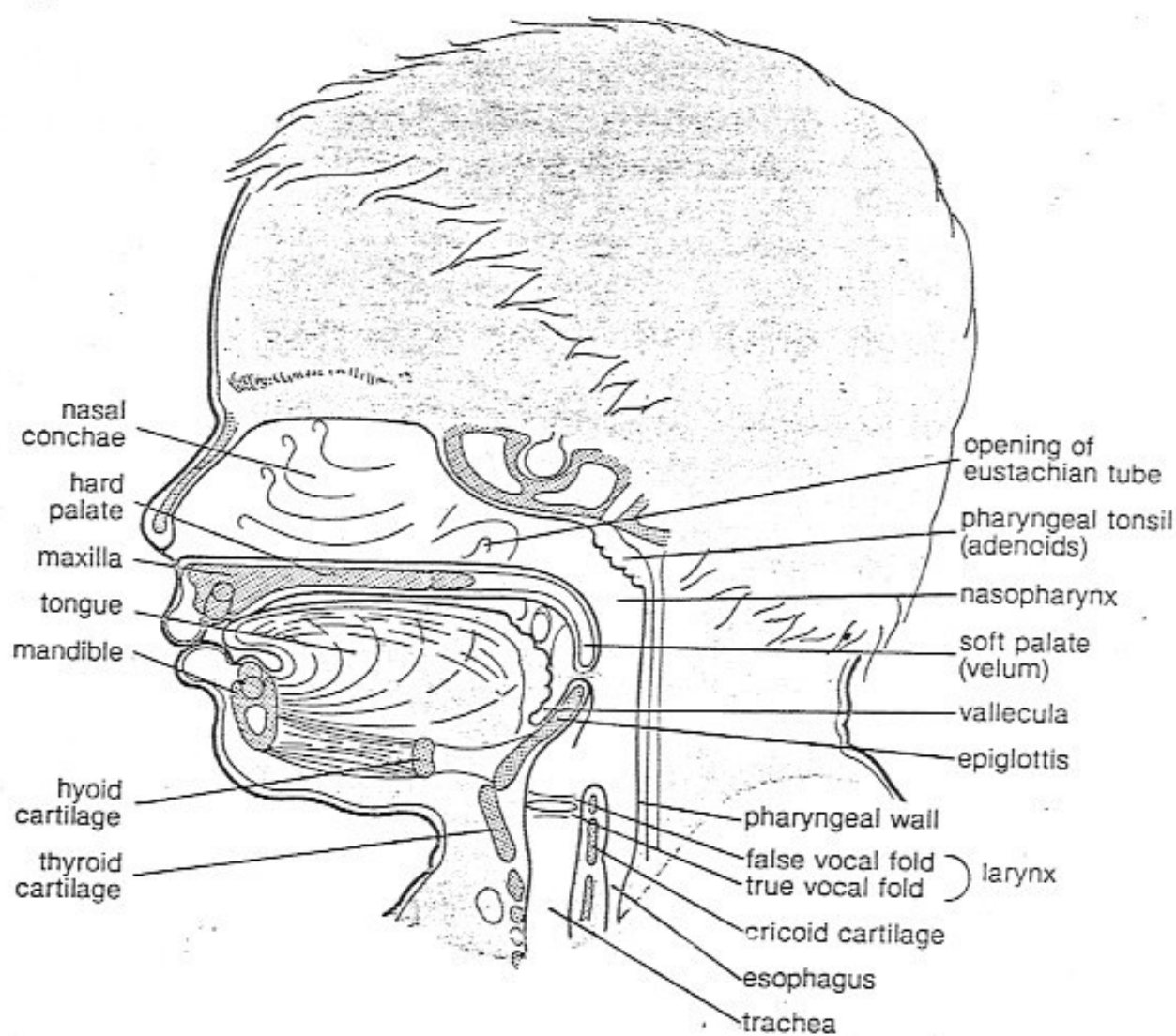
## **Emergence of Primitive Oral Reflexes:**

- Gag reflex - 32 weeks
- Rooting reaction - mouth opening at 32 weeks; sequence of four closer to term
- Transverse tongue reflex - 28 weeks
- Phasic bite - 28 weeks
- Non-nutritive suck - in utero
- Nutritive suck - immature pattern; mature pattern

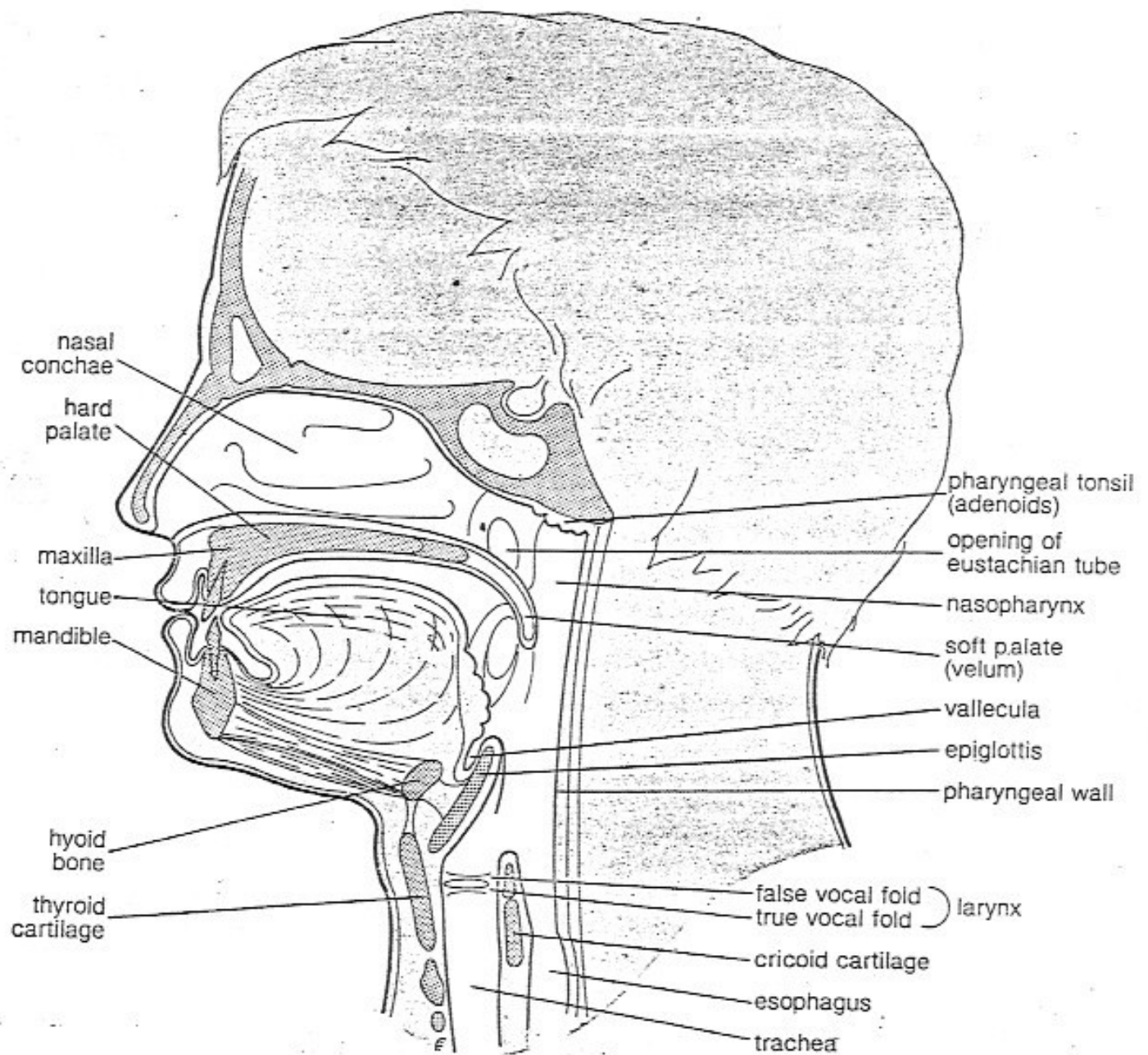
## **3-6 Months**

- Volitional suck
- Bilabial closure
- Tongue tip elevation
- Quiet jaw

# THE MOUTH AND PHARYNX OF THE NEWBORN (saggital section)



# THE MOUTH AND PHARYNX OF THE ADULT (saggital section)



# Anatomy and Physiology of the Infant Oral and Pharyngeal Mechanism

## Bibliography

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Compiled by Marjorie Meyer Palmer, M.A.