

Diagnostic-Based Intervention for the Poor Feeder

Presented by Marjorie Meyer Palmer, M.A.

Speech Pathologist

Neonatal and Pediatric Feeding Specialist

Historical Perspectives on Neonatal Feeding

1980's- weak suck, poor suck

Pacing to aid infant in distress

1990's - disorganized, dysfunctional sucking (NOMAS®)

Regulation of suck/swallow/breathe to prevent discomfort and distress

PACING

- attend to infant's cues, cue-based
- subjective, based upon caregiver's judgment
- at signs of stress, remove nipple from the mouth
- re-insert once infant has recovered
- alleviates discomfort, distress once it has occurred

REGULATION of suck/swallow/breathe

- initial evaluation = disorganized suck (NOMAS®)
- objective, based upon normal developmental guidelines
- provide regulation for first minute of feeding to prevent discomfort, distress
- let infant take over feeding
- repeat in one-minute intervals as needed

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For the infant under the age of three months who is demonstrating a **disorganized*** suck:

Modify the environment by:

- maintaining the infant in a stable, secure midline position
- holding rather than stroking or patting
- minimizing environmental sensory input
- building rhythmicity into the sucking experience
- grading of intra-oral sensation

Modify the feeding experience by:

- maintenance of the respiratory system
- careful timing of the nipple presentation
- practice with nasal breathing
- use of primitive reflexes
- consistent regulation of suck/swallow/breathe

For the infant under the age of three months who is demonstrating a **dysfunctional*** suck:

- jaw support
- cheek support
- peri-oral stimulation
- facilitation of central tongue groove
- bolus control

*Diagnosis of suck pattern based upon the NOMAS®

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For the **disorganized** *feeder under three months of age who is demonstrating a reflexive suck:

- 1) consistent regulation of suck/swallow/breathe
- 2) first one minute of nutritive sucking
- 3) use of prescriptive technique
- 4) continue for second minute as needed

For the **dysfunctional*** feeder under three months who is demonstrating a reflexive suck:

- 1) jaw support
- 2) cheek support
- 3) facilitation of central tongue groove
- 4) peri-oral stimulation

*Diagnosis of suck pattern based upon the NOMAS®

Diagnostic-Based Intervention for the Poor Feeder

Suggested therapeutic materials:

ITEM

AVAILABLE FROM:

Sterile Clinic Dropper

Therapeutic Media
1528 Merrill Road
San Juan Bautista, CA 95045
Order form available on
www.nomasinternational.org

Mini-Haberman Feeder Bottle

Medela Inc.
McHenry, IL
800-435-8316

Sterile Calgiswab, Type 1

Spectrum Laboratories Inc.
1100 Rankin Road
Houston, TX 77073
800-634-3300

Pidgeon Feeder bottle

Children's Medical Ventures
541 Main Street
S. Weymouth, MA 02190
800-377-3449

5 ml oral syringe/clear

Health Care Logistics, Inc.
phone: 800-848-1633
FAX: 800-447-2923
www.hcl-intl.com

Sassy Baby Food Nurser
Model #627

1534 College SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
616-243-0767

Luv n' Care Spoon Feeder
(Infant Feeding Set)

Luv n' Care
P.O. BOX 6050
Monroe, LA 71211
www.luvncare.com

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