

**Breastfeeding Assessment Form
(1-3 days)**

Baby's name:

Date of birth:

Gestation at birth:

Date of assessment:

Baby's age:

Birth Weight:

Signature.....

Name – Print.....

What to observe/ask about	Answer indicating effective feeding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Answer suggestive of a problem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Urine output	Day 1-2 = 1-2 or more Day 3-4 = 3 or more, heavier		Dry or barely damp nappies, urates present	
Appearance and frequency of stools	Day 1-2 = 1 or more, meconium Day 3-4 = 2 or more changing stools: meconium changing to looser green/brown stools (cake mix consistency) with increasing "seedy" appearance		Bowels not open for 12-24 hours; meconium only still being passed at the end of this period	
Baby's colour, alertness and tone	Normal skin colour; alert; good tone		Jaundice worsening or not improving; baby lethargic, not waking to feed; poor tone; or, fractious and agitated at the breast then falling asleep without feeding	
If weighed	Less than 10% of weight lost (See Guidance)		10% or more weight lost	
Number of feeds in the last 24 hours	Day 1 at least 3-4 feeds		Reluctant to feed at birth or in first 6 hours; 2 or less feeds in first 24 hours;	
Baby's behaviour during feeds	Generally calm and relaxed		Baby comes on and off the breast frequently during the feed, or refuses to breastfeed	
Sucking pattern during feed	Initial rapid sucks changing to slower sucks: Swallows may be less audible until milk comes in day 3-4		No change in sucking pattern, or noisy feeding (e.g. clicking); no swallowing evident	
Length of feed	Baby feeds for 5-30 minutes at most feeds		Baby consistently feeds for less than 5 minutes or longer than 40 minutes	
End of the feed	Baby lets go spontaneously, or does so when breast is gently lifted		Baby does not release the breast spontaneously, mother removes baby	
Offer of second breast?	Second breast offered. Baby feeds from second breast or not, according to appetite		Mother restricts baby to one breast per feed, or insists on two breasts per feed	
Baby's behaviour after feeds	Baby content after most feeds		Baby unsettled after feeding	
Shape of either nipple at end of feed	Same shape as when feed began, or slightly elongated		Misshapen or pinched at the end of feeds	
Mothers' report on her breasts and nipples	Breasts and nipples comfortable		Nipples sore or damaged; Pain on feeding (lasting longer than the first 20-30 seconds)	
Use of dummy / nipple shields / formula?	None used		Yes (<i>state which</i>) Ask why: Difficulty with attachment? Baby unsettled?	

If any boxes in right-hand column are ticked it is essential to observe a full breastfeed and develop an individualised plan of care, including revisiting positioning and attachment and/or referring appropriately. Any additional concerns about the baby's well-being should be followed up as necessary