

# Safe Positioning for Skin-to-Skin Contact

Position yourself a little upright, not flat. Position your baby so that:

- ✓ Face can be seen
- ✓ Head can move freely at all times
- ✓ Nose and mouth are not covered
- ✓ Head is turned to one side
- ✓ Neck is straight not bent
- ✓ Shoulders are flat against you, chest to chest
- ✓ Back is covered with a blanket

**In the first few days after birth** when holding skin-to-skin, watch your baby's face. See that the colour remains normal, breathing is regular, and baby reacts to your touch.

**For safe sleep**, if you are feeling sleepy and no one can watch you and your baby, put your baby in their own crib, positioned on their back.

**Avoid swaddling or bundling your baby**, this can prevent them from showing you feeding cues.



Adapted with permission from:  
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Local Support:

24 hours a day / 7 days a week  
**1-866-797-0000**  
**TTY: 1-800-797-0007**  
Ask for a breastfeeding nurse, if needed.

Telehealth Ontario

For breastfeeding services in your community:  
• Bilingual Online Ontario Breastfeeding Services directory  
[www.ontariobreastfeeds.ca](http://www.ontariobreastfeeds.ca)

For more information:  
• Breastfeeding [www.beststart.org/resources/breastfeeding](http://www.beststart.org/resources/breastfeeding)  
• Infant Feeding [www.beststart.org/resources/nutrition](http://www.beststart.org/resources/nutrition)

## Supports and Services

Funded by: 

## Introducing...



Baby's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor/Midwife: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Place: \_\_\_\_\_

**BABY-FRIENDLY**  
**INITIATIVE STRATEGY**  
**ONTARIO**

## Taking Care

Taking care of yourself and your baby is important. You may find that you want or need more help. Consider the following:

### Me

- ✓ I am getting enough rest.
- ✓ I know that crying or feeling weepy can be normal for the first 2 weeks.
- ✓ I know where to ask for help and will, when needed.




Early Feeding Cues: Mouth opening, yawning, lip smacking.

### Baby

- ✓ I am getting more confident and comfortable with feeding my baby.
- ✓ I am learning my baby's early feeding cues and respond to them.
- ✓ I know it is normal for my baby to feed often.
- ✓ I can help comfort my baby during bloodwork and immunizations with breastfeeding and/or skin-to-skin.
- ✓ I know where to get help if I have questions about feeding my baby.



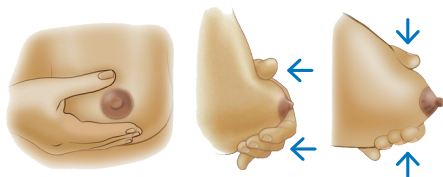
## Signs that feeding is going well

Days Old	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<b>Feeding</b>	8 or more feeds per day. Your baby is sucking strongly, slowly, steadily and swallowing often.								
<b>Tummy Size</b>	Size of a cherry 	Size of a walnut 	Size of an apricot 	Size of an egg 					
<b>Dirty Diapers</b>	At least 1 to 2 BLACK OR DARK GREEN		3 or more BROWN, GREEN OR YELLOW		3 or more large and soft YELLOW or BROWN				
<b>Wet Diapers</b>	At least 1 WET	At least 2 WET	At least 3 WET	At least 4 WET	At least 6 HEAVY WET				
<b>Weight</b>	Most babies lose weight in the first 3 days after birth. From day 4 onward, most babies gain weight regularly.								
<b>Other Signs</b>	Your baby should have a strong cry, move actively and wake easily.								

## Hand express your milk early and often

### Why:

- ✓ Help remove milk from your breast for comfort.
- ✓ Help baby to latch.
- ✓ Give your baby more milk.
- ✓ Help increase your milk supply.



### How:

1. Wash your hands.
2. Gently massage your breast.
3. Place your fingers and thumb behind the areola in a "C" shape.
4. Press back towards your chest. Compress your fingers together and towards the nipple.
5. Collect drops of milk to feed your baby or store for later.
6. Repeat (press back, compress, relax) and move around your breast.
7. Switch breasts and repeat.