

## **Non-Latching Baby Case Study** **(20 minutes – 4 minutes per page)**

Birth:

Sarah (age 32 years, primipara)'s labour began with leaking of her amniotic fluid. Pete, being a long haul trucker, was three hours away so Sarah had a friend drive her the 100 km to the rural hospital where induction and epidural were ordered. After 20 hours of first stage and 2 hour second stage ending in a vacuum assist, baby Ben was born. Birth weight was 3200gms. Ben had scalp abrasion from the kiwi suction.

Ben was skin to skin with mom while her episiotomy was repaired. At this time, Ben rested and occasionally sucked his fist.

Sarah was very tired and asked that Pete take Ben. By hour 2, they were both asleep.

### **What are some breastfeeding challenges that may result?**

- Long exhausting labour
- Epidural
- Shortened skin to skin time

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## **Non-Latching Baby Case Study**

6-24 hours:

- Sarah is having perineal pain and requires analgesia with difficulty finding comfortable position.
- Mom's breasts are small-average size, round. Areolar tissue is somewhat firm. Nipples are evert but short
- Ben struggled with latching. Bedside nurse' assistance was required.
- No latch is achieved.
- Blood sugar was drawn at 6 hours, within acceptable limit
- Mom was unable to get a drop of colostrum with hand expression
- Baby cried and fussed if his head was manipulated during feeding attempts.
- Baby was not able to latch by 12 hours, 5mls of glucose water was given to baby via finger feed. Baby's suck was weak and slightly disorganized.
- Supplementation was repeated at 18 and 24 hours for no latch.
- Many people are in and out of the room, visitors and friends.
- Lots of skin to skin with mom and dad. Baby spends most of this time sleeping.
- He has one void and one meconium.

### **Feeding Plan:**

**What are Sarah's needs and how can we meet them?**

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**What are Sarah's needs and how can we meet them?**

Skin to Skin

Feed the Baby

Move the Milk

## **Non-Latching Baby Case Study**

24-48 hours:

- Weight loss 4.5% at 24 hours
- Baby had 2 voids and 3 stools
- Baby is fussy when not is skin to skin
- He shows feeding cues but gets upset when positioned at the breast. He has been able to latch briefly for a few sucks but falls off the breast and cries
- Sarah is weepy and says she just wants baby to breastfeed.
- Mom has started to pump occasionally. She is able to get more drops of colostrum. These drops are scooped up with Mom's finger and placed in Ben's mouth
- Supplementation is now with formula 10-15mls via finger feeding, every 3 hours

### **Feeding Plan:**

**What changes would you make to the feeding plan?**

**What strengths based words can we use with Mom to explain Ben's behavior?**

**What needs to be in place for mom to be able to go home?**

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48-72 hours:

- Weight loss at 48 hours is 6.3%
- Ben has voided 4 times and stoolled 3 transitional stools
- Ben is becoming more alert.
- He enjoys his skin to skin time and bobs over to the breast, holds the nipple in his mouth
- If assisted, baby continues to be fussy and pushes away from the breast.
- Mom has been pumping with every feeding attempts and has been getting 5-7mls of breast milk/session, then up to 15-19mls/session
- As the day progresses Mom's breasts are getting more firm, nipples seem to be getting shorter with the increasing volume within the breasts
- Baby is supplemented using finger feeding for 15-30mls of EBM/formula
- Parents have been taught how to finger feed Ben.
- Mom has a breast pump at home
- Mom is anxious to get to her own bed/home
- Dad is off from work for the next 2 weeks

They are discharged with an updated feeding plan.

- Skin to skin as much as possible
- Positive practice at the breast
- Supplement with EBM/Formula if not latching
- Pump if supplement is needed

**What changes do you think are needed?**

**Should Mom be worried that baby is not latching at discharge?**

**How do you encourage baby to latch? Would a nipple shield be helpful? How would it be beneficial/detrimental?**

**Community home visit.**

Several visits occurred. Baby Ben continues to enjoy skin to skin. Parents have changed to using a bottle to supplement. EBM is the only supplement Ben is getting, 50-65mls/feeding every 2-3 hours. He is voiding and stooling very well. Mom is expressing every feeding for 120-155mls/session using hands on pumping technique. He surpassed his birth weight at day 11. Ben did not like the nipple shield initially. He began to take the breast with the shield a couple of times a day at 2 weeks of age.

At 6 weeks and 3 days Ben decided it was a good day to latch without the nipple shield and he has been breastfeeding exclusively ever since.

**What helped Ben to finally breastfeed?**

**How long can a baby go without latching before Mom should think to give it up?**

**How do you support a Mom and Baby in this situation?**

**How long was your longest No-latch situation?**