



NEWBORN

WELL CHILD

A Naturopathic Guide to
Whole Health

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Guide to Whole Health - Newborns

Development:

- You may have noticed a few reflexes that your baby performs. These are normal:
 - The **Moro or Startle Reflex**: your baby spreads his arms and cries when he gets the sensation of falling (especially as you quickly lay him down for a diaper change).
 - **Palmar grasp reflex**: your baby grabs an object (like your finger) when placed in her hand.
 - **Plantar grasp reflex**: your baby will curl his toes if you stroke the bottom of his foot.
 - **Rooting reflex**: your baby opens his mouth and turns his head if you stroke his cheeks or lips.
 - **Sucking reflex**: your baby will start to suck if anything touches the roof of his mouth.
 - **Walking/stepping reflex**: when held upright your baby will make stepping movements.
- Your baby can see only about 1 foot away. But she will quickly learn who her parents are and prefer their faces! If she hasn't already your baby will soon start to make eye contact.
- To promote normal development make sure to start doing **tummy time** with your baby. Aim for 10-20 minutes twice per day. Some babies prefer to do tummy time on their parent's chest.

Nursing:

- Breastmilk is the perfect food for your baby. The World Health Organization recommends breastfeeding until age 2 (or beyond). **Please let your physician know if you are having difficulties nursing your baby.**
- Pay attention to hunger cues: rooting, mouthing, sucking, turning his head side-to-side. You will have better luck with nursing if you feed your baby before he starts to cry from hunger.
- **Feed your baby "on demand."** Do not restrict feedings from a newborn. Newborns do not have a "schedule." Frequent feedings (up to every hour) are extremely common and help to establish your breastmilk supply.
- **Invest in a good breastmilk pump.** Many insurance companies will now pay for pumps. Contact a lactation consultant for more information.
- **Continue to take your prenatal vitamin as long as you are nursing.**
- If you need to **increase milk supply***
 - Speak with your physician immediately if your milk supply appears to drop in the first 3 weeks (after the initial engorgement period.) Consider [Traditional Medicinals Mother's Milk Tea](#), 1 cup four to five times per day, or eat organic oatmeal or ["lactation" cookies](#). Please tell your physician first, in case this goes against your health plan.
 - If you are planning on returning to work you can introduce a bottle as soon as breastfeeding is well established, usually around 3 weeks. You can also introduce a pacifier around this time.
 - Breastfed infants should be given an additional 400 IU Vitamin D daily to prevent vitamin D deficiency.

If nursing doesn't work out:

- If for some reason you are unable to nurse, **feed your baby 2-3 ounces of pumped breastmilk or formula every 3-4 hours.** By 1 month of age most babies will be eating 4 ounces per feeding (every 3-4 hours).
- Throw out any milk or formula you have not used within one hour. Sterilize all bottles, nipples and pumping equipment by placing them in boiling water for 10 minutes. (Or use [microwavable sterilization bags](#) or gadgets.)
- If you cannot find safe donor breastmilk, we recommend HIPP or Holle organic formula, which are extremely high quality and imported from Germany. Alternately Baby's Only or Earth's Best Organic Formula are decent options. Some babies may need hydrolyzed or elemental formulas. Please speak with your physician before starting one of these formulas.
- **Babies under 6 months should not be fed homemade formula.** Home made formulas from cow, goat or sheep milk contain proteins much larger in size than human breast milk. Additionally the ratios of electrolytes like sodium, calcium, potassium and phosphorus do not match human breast milk. **This can cause permanent kidney damage that is undetectable without a blood test.** Commercial formulas break down these proteins and balance electrolytes, making them a much safer option. If your baby cannot tolerate all commercial formulas please let your physician know - he will likely qualify for donor breastmilk from a milk bank.

Nothing other than breastmilk or formula

- Do not give your baby water or sugar water.
- Do not give your baby honey until she is over 12 months of age.
- Do not give your baby corn syrup until he is over 12 months of age. Grandparents sometimes like to give babies pacifiers dipped in honey or corn syrup - please do not allow this.

Diapers:

- Your baby should have her first bowel movement within 24 hours of birth. This first stool (poop) is called meconium and is thick, black and sticky. We highly recommend coating the baby's bottom in olive oil shortly after birth to make it easier to wipe off the meconium stool.
- Your baby should have 1+ wet diaper the first day, 2+ the second day, 3+ the third day, etc. until he has 6-10+ wet diapers per day.
- Your breastfed baby should have 3+ normal "breastmilk" stools by day 4. Breastmilk stools are yellowish in color and "seedy." After the first few weeks of life your baby may have 4+ stools per day, or as few as 1 stool per **week**. This is normal, but please contact your physician if your baby is uncomfortable.
- Formula-fed babies have tan to brown colored stools, usually the consistency of peanut-butter.

Safety & General Health Tips

- **Do not leave your baby unattended.**

- Make sure your **infant car seat** has been installed correctly. Many local fire stations will do car seat checks.
- **Wash all new clothing** before it is worn by your baby. Many clothes have been treated with chemical flame retardants, which can be harmful to your baby's health.
- Make sure **bath water is only lukewarm** before bathing your baby. Do sponge baths before your baby's cord has fallen off. Never leave your baby alone in the bath for any reason.
- Keep your baby away from people who are **smoking**. Second hand smoke causes cancer, raises your baby's risk of SIDS and can lead to asthma and other lung problems.
- **Babies under 3 months of age should not get fevers.** Contact your physician if your baby has a temperature of greater than 100.4 °F (38 °C).

Sleep:

- Remember "**back to sleep**". Always put your baby to sleep on his back to reduce the chance of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Make sure grandparents and caregivers do as well.
- **Safe sleeping:** To prevent SIDS always keep soft objects like pillows, blankets and stuffed animals completely away from your baby. No crib bumpers or soft mattresses. Use a sleep sack or swaddle to keep your baby warm. Keep the room cool to prevent overheating.
- **Average awake time:** In the first few days to weeks of life newborns typically sleep most of the day. They may have only a few minutes of "active alert" time before wanting to eat or sleep. By six weeks of age babies may be able to stay awake for 30-60 minutes before needing a nap.
- **Cosleeping and bedsharing:** Studies show that 40% of parents have bed-shared with their baby at some time, with over a third of parents regularly bed-sharing. In many ways the anti-cosleeping campaign has backfired, as many parents simply deny telling their provider that they bed-share, and never learn how to do so safely. This has resulted in cases of babies dying after Mom fell asleep nursing her baby in a recliner or on the sofa. If you choose to cosleep:
 - **Never ever share a bed with your baby if you or your partner have consumed alcohol, drugs, or medications that cause drowsiness. (E.g., Benadryl, Tylenol PM)**
 - Only sleep on a firm mattress. Keep all blankets and pillows away from your baby. Have your baby in a sleep sack, swaddle, or warm pajamas to keep him warm.
 - **Never cosleep in a recliner, couch or waterbed.**
 - Keep siblings and pets out of the bed while cosleeping.
 - Do not cosleep if you smoke cigarettes.
 - Keep your baby on his back when not nursing.
 - Do not cosleep if you are extremely obese or cannot feel parts of your body.
 - Safest cosleeping is in a side-car crib or [cosleeper bassinet](#) (like Arms Reach).

What you may be feeling

- Tired! Newborn sleep is extremely fragmented, and most babies wake frequently throughout the night for the first few months. Lack of sleep for parents is a major risk factor for postpartum depression. If your sleep is extremely fragmented you **must prioritize rest**. Try to arrange a 3-4

hour stretch at least twice per day (either at night or during the day). Alternately, aim for 12 hours in bed with/near your baby. **I cannot stress enough how important this is. You must prioritize your own rest.**

- Overwhelmed. **Ask for help.** You may have noticed - people love new babies! If someone asks you what they can do, say honestly "bring me dinner." (Or snacks, or lunch.) You won't be inconveniencing anyone, they will want to help!
- Frustrated. Some people call the first three months of a baby's life the **4th trimester**. This is because newborn babies are incredibly needy. They want their caregivers to simulate life inside the womb. This means that **it is normal for babies to want to be held constantly**. Babies cry when they are wet, hungry, tired, overstimulated or ignored. Many (or most!) babies cry for no apparent reason, especially in the evening. It is normal to be frustrated at some point. When this happens set the baby down in a safe place and walk away for a few minutes. **If your baby cries for more than 3 hours a day please let your physician know.** (Colic*)
- Sad. Or happy. Or sad and happy at the same time! **Baby Blues** affect 80% of women. Baby blues happen because of the rapid hormonal changes after delivery. It often worsens as your milk comes in on day 2-3, and gets better by 2 weeks. Normal symptoms: crying for no reason, moodiness, irritability, problems with sleep, change in appetite, difficulty concentrating.
- **What is NOT normal:** seeing or hearing things that are not there (hallucinations), paranoia, suicidal thoughts or actions, disorientation, bizarre behavior, thoughts of harming yourself or killing your baby. Postpartum psychosis is a treatable medical condition. **If you are having these thoughts please call 911** and let your doctor know immediately. (Postpartum depression*) Here are some hotlines that may be helpful if you are concerned:
 - 1-800-944-4773 - Postpartum Support International. (This is NOT a crisis hotline.)
www.postpartum.net
 - 1-800-273-8255 - National Suicide Prevention Hotline. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/

What to expect from your baby between 2 weeks and 2 months:

- He will have his first **Wonder Week** at around 5 weeks. (See the [Wonder Weeks book](#) or smartphone app.)
- She will probably have a growth spurt at 3 weeks, 6 weeks and 3 months. (She may be crankier than usual or eat more than usual.)
- She will gain an average of 0.5-1 oz per day
- He will begin to smile
- She will start to lift her head and shoulders during tummy time

Coming up: For information about vaccines prior to your baby's 2 month visit please see www.udemy.com/vaccines-demystified.

Topics with an * have more information published on www.naturopathicpediatrics.com. Simply type in the underlined phrase into the search box to find additional articles.

Avena sativa

Common name: Oats

Part used: mature seed (as food), milky unripe seed (for herbal medicine)

Medicinal constituents: alkaloids, complex carbohydrates.

Use for: Oats eaten in whole food form are an excellent galactagogue (substance that enhances lactation). Oats consumed in whole food form are also high in soluble fiber to improve high cholesterol levels.*

Avena tincture, tea or glycerite used in herbal medicine is often used for mild insomnia, agitation, depression, high blood pressure, and mild pain. It has been used by some herbalists for gastrointestinal cramping and menstrual cramps. Some use this herb for drug withdrawal symptoms or to decrease nicotine cravings. Avena sativa is considered a mild "nervine" herb. Nervines are herbs that support and tonify the nervous system, gradually improving function over time. Avena is excellent choice for mild anxiety in children, and tends to be extremely safe.*

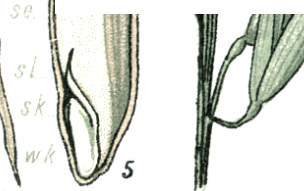
Dose/form: tincture in 30-50% ethanol, glycerite or tea.

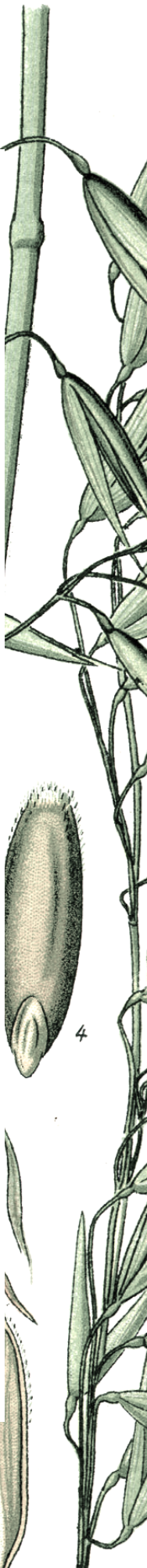
Typical dose recommended by herbalists**

Age/weight	Dose	Times per day
Adult (approx 150 lbs)	5-10 ml tincture or glycerite (milky unripe seed)	3 times daily or as needed up to every 2 hours.
75-100 pounds	3-5 ml tincture or glycerite	Recommend no more than 4 times daily for children.
35-75 pounds	2-3 ml glycerite	
20-35 pounds	1-2 ml glycerite	
15-20 pounds	0.5-1 ml glycerite	
Under 15 pounds	Not recommended	

**These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease. This monograph is provided for informational purposes only and is not medical advice. Always consult your physician before using any herbal substance.*

***Always consult a physician for appropriate dosage before use.*





Recipes

Mother's Milk Support tea:

This tea contains gentle galactagogues which are herbs to help increase milk supply. We recommend only using galactagogues if milk supply is an issue, otherwise Mom can end up with engorgement leading to breast pain or mastitis. Please discuss with your physician before using these recipes.

Oat straw - 1/2 cup

Nettle leaf (loose/bulk tea) - 1/2 cup

Alfalfa leaf - 1/2 cup

Red clover blossoms - 1/2 cup

Fennel seeds - 1/4 cup

Optional: **1/2 cup Blessed Thistle** (highly recommended if Mom is struggling with poor milk production)

Cinnamon to taste

Mix together and store in a sealed glass jar away from sunlight or heat. Add 1 tablespoon of this mixture to 1 cup of boiling water, let steep 15 minutes covered. Drink 1 cup 3-4 times per day. Serve with honey or stevia to sweeten.

Mother's Milk Oatmeal cookies (gluten-free, dairy-free)

1 1/4 cups Spectrum Spread (or butter)

1/2 cup sugar

3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar

1 egg

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 1/2 cups gluten-free all purpose flour mix

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon cinnamon

3 cups Gluten Free Oats (such as Bob's Red Mill)

Optional: 2-4 tablespoons brewer's yeast (great for increasing milk supply!)

Beat Spectrum Spread with sugars until creamy. Add egg and vanilla. Combine dry ingredients and mix with egg/sugar mixture. Add oats and mix well. Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 8-12 minutes at 375 °F.

