

4.0 Breastfeeding

Effective Date: 01/05/18

4.09C Finger Feeding with Supplemental/Transitional Nursing System

Finger Feeding with Supplemental/Transitional Nursing System

Description

Finger feeding involves a baby receiving breast milk or formula via a very fine feeding tube while they suck an adult finger

Indication for use of Finger Feeding Device

- a. To provide extra milk to an infant, when an infant is unable to latch.
- b. Suck training.

Procedure

- a. Educate client about the purpose of finger feeding and the risks of poor milk intake and compromised milk production when finger feeding.
- b. Assess milk production and need for additional breast stimulation when using a specialty feeding device.
- c. Instruct the client to:
 - i. Wash hands
 - ii. Put on gloves. If parent is doing the finger feeding, gloves are not necessary.
 - iii. Prepare equipment: Transitional feeder- draw up human milk or formula into syringe. Connect feeding tube to syringe.
Supplemental Nursing System- Place human milk or formula in to the container. Feeding tube should be released to allow milk to flow.
 - iv. Place feeding tube either along the side or pad of the finger. The end of the feeding tube should meet the end of the finger. Tape to secure placement.
 - v. Position baby on caregiver's lap in a semi-upright position, with one of their hands supporting his/her shoulders and neck. Pillows for support of baby and caregiver's arms may be helpful.
 - vi. Gently tickle baby's lower lip in the middle, in an up and down direction to elicit both the rooting and tongue extrusion reflexes. Keep tickling just as you would for breastfeeding, until baby opens as wide as he or she can.
 - vii. Gently insert finger with pad side up, against the hard palate near the upper gum line, when baby opens mouth wide.
 - viii. Move their finger back to near the hard and soft palate juncture where the breast nipple would go if the baby were at the breast.
 - ix. Keep their finger pad in gentle contact with the hard palate. If caregiver's finger drops down on baby's tongue, baby may gag.
 - x. Watch for milk being drawn out of the device with each suck.
 - xi. Allow infant to set the pace of his or her suck, swallow and breathe.
 - xii. Advance milk by gently pushing on the plunger or squeezing the container, if the infant is not pulling the milk as they suck or to offer a fast flow.