

*A Tool to Evaluate Your Facility's Policy & Practice on
Artificial Nipples and Pacifiers*

Evaluation Criteria	Yes	No	Suggestions for Improvement
Are babies who have started to breastfeed cared for without any bottle feedings?			
Are babies who have started to breastfeed cared for without using pacifiers with the possible exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short periods of time during painful procedures when the infant cannot be safely breastfed • infant is being tube fed in the Intensive Care Unit • alternative specific medical reasons exists (e.g., baby experiencing excessive sucking due to Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome) 			
If pacifiers are used during a painful procedure, are they removed from the crib and discarded prior to returning to the room?			
Are breastfeeding mothers educated about how the use of bottles and artificial nipples may interfere with the development of optimal breastfeeding?			
Do breastfeeding mothers learn that they should not give any bottles or pacifiers to their babies for at least one month and/or until after breastfeeding is fully established?			
In the setting of a mother who requests that her baby be given a bottle or pacifier, do staff perform all of the following? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explore reasons for request with mother address concerns raised by the mother review the risks of introducing an artificial nipple or bottle including potential consequences to success of breastfeeding discuss alternative methods for soothing and/or feeding her baby document counseling provided and the mother's informed decision in the infant's medical record 			
Are infants who require any fluid supplementation (whether medically indicated or following informed decision by the mother) given supplementation by tube, syringe, spoon, or cup in preference to an artificial nipple or bottle?			

