

Breastfeeding assessment in Kenya. Lithograph, ca. 2000.

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IF AN INFANT

- Has no indications to refer urgently to hospital:

ASSESS BREASTFEEDING:

- Has the infant breastfed in the previous hour?

If the infant has not fed in the previous hour, ask the mother to put her infant to the breast. Observe the breastfeed for 4 minutes.

(If the infant was fed during the last hour, ask the mother if she can wait and tell you when the infant is willing to feed again.)

- Is the infant able to attach?

No attachment at all

not well attached

good attachment

TO CHECK ATTACHMENT, LOOK FOR:

- Chin touching breast
- Mouth wide open
- Lower lip turned outward
- More areola visible above than below the mouth

(All of these signs should be present if the attachment is good.)

- Is the infant sucking effectively (that is, show deep sucks, sometimes pausing)?

Not suckling at all

not suckling effectively

suckling effectively

- Look for ulcers or white patches in the mouth (thrush)