

# When latching

Push baby's bottom into your body with the side (the side of your baby finger) of your forearm.

- This will bring him towards your breast with the nipple pointing to the roof of his mouth

Mother's hand under the baby's face, palm up.

Head supported but NOT pushed in against breast.

Head tilted back slightly.

Baby's body and legs wrapped in around mother.

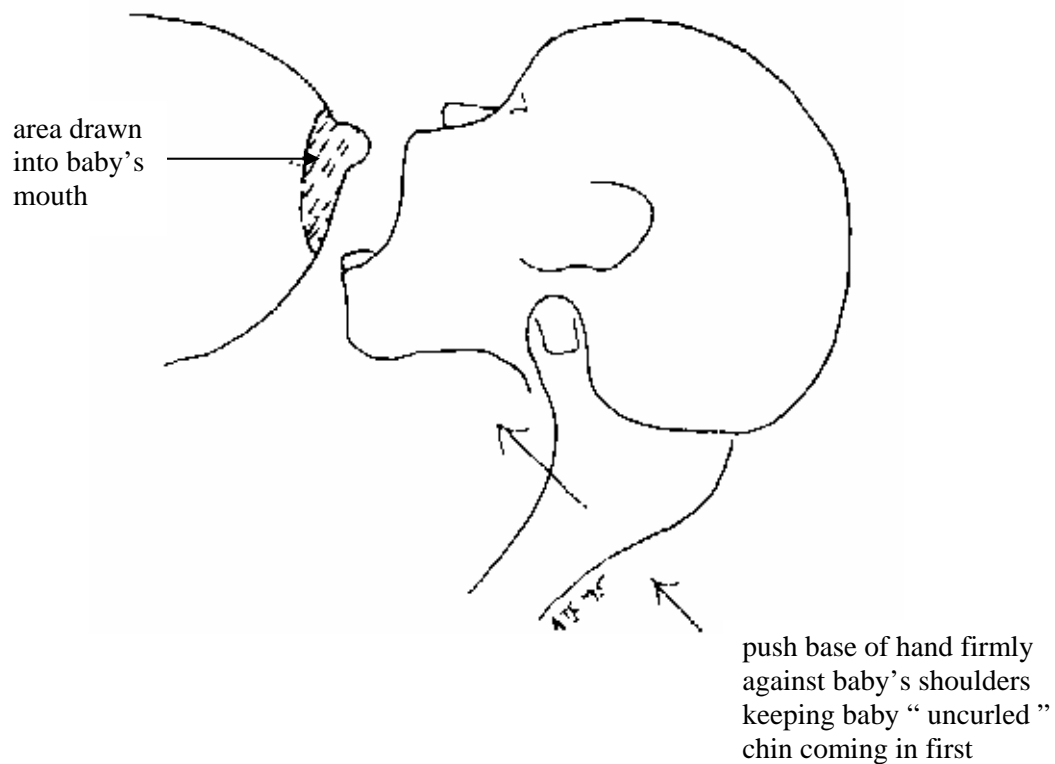
Use your whole arm to bring the baby onto the breast, when *mouth wide*.

- Chin and lower jaw touch breast first.

WATCH LOWER LIP, *aim it as far from base of nipple as possible*, so tongue draws *lots of breast* into mouth.

Move baby's body and head together – keep baby uncurled.

Once latched, top lip will be close to nipple, areola shows above lip. Keep chin close against breast.

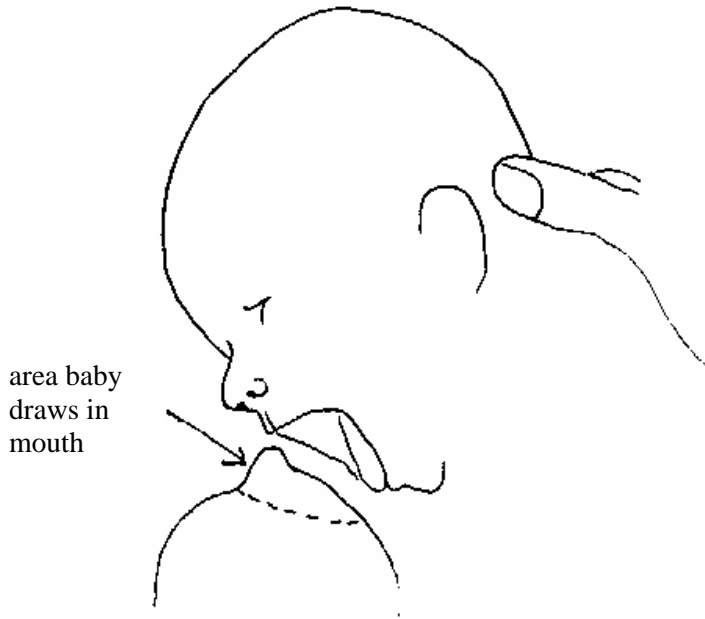


## WIDE MOUTH / GAPE

Need *mouth wide before* baby moved onto breast. Teach baby to open wide/gape :

- move baby toward breast, touch top lip against nipple
- move mouth away SLIGHTLY
- touch top lip against nipple again, move away again
- **repeat until baby opens wide** and has tongue forward
  
- **Or**, better yet, run nipple along the baby's *upper* lip, from one corner to the other, lightly, until baby opens wide

**MOTHER'S VIEW WHILE LATCHING BABY**



Move baby not breast

baby's head tilted slightly back

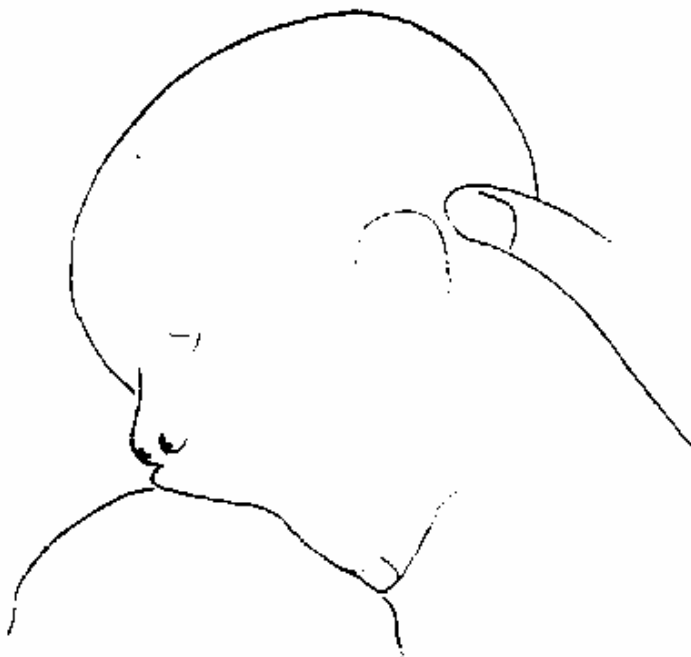
bring baby in quickly

push with base of hand on shoulders

chin touches first

baby's body close against mother

**MOTHER'S VIEW OF NURSING BABY**



head tilted slightly back

chin well in against breast

hold in firmly against shoulders keeping baby uncurled

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MOTHER

### Mother's posture

- sit with straight, well-supported back
- trunk facing forwards, lap flat

### Baby's position before feed begins

- on pillow can be helpful,
- nipple points to the baby's upper lip or nostril

### Baby's body

- placed not quite tummy to tummy, but so that baby comes up to breast from below and baby's upper eye makes eye contact with mother's

### Support breast

- and firm inner breast tissue by raising breast slightly with fingers placed flat on chest wall and thumb pointing up (if helpful, also use sling of tensor bandage around breast)

### Move baby quickly on to breast

- head tilted back slightly, pushing in across shoulders so chin and lower jaw make first contact (not nose) while mouth still wide open, keep baby uncurled (means tongue nearer breast) lower lip is aimed as far from nipple as possible so baby's tongue draws in maximum amount of breast tissue

## Cautions

### Mother needs to AVOID

- pushing her breast across her body
- chasing the baby with her breast
- flapping the breast up and down
- holding breast with scissor grip
- not supporting breast
- twisting her body towards the baby instead of slightly away
- aiming nipple to centre of baby's mouth
- pulling baby's chin down to open mouth
- flexing baby's head when bringing to breast
- moving breast into baby's mouth instead of bringing baby to breast
- moving baby onto breast without a proper gape
- not moving baby onto breast quickly enough at height of gape
- having baby's nose touch breast first and not the chin
- holding breast away from baby's nose (not necessary if the baby is well latched on, as the nose will be away from the breast anyway)

Revised : December 13, 2002



