



Neo Sim: Two-Minute Update.

Teaching parents to enteral feed their baby in RNICU.

As part of our commitment to family integrated care, we are keen to support parents to be involved as much as possible in the care of their baby.

Parents are to be offered the option of participating in this care giving activity only when they feel ready and when their infant's condition is stable especially in ICU.

Parents must be signed off by nurse as confident and competent in tube feeding achieving, both Level 1 and Level 2. Firstly by discussion/demonstration and then three separate day observation. Parent must sign when completed.

There are 3 different levels of tube feeding: level one, level two and tube feeding your baby at home:

Level 1 - initial stage to begin with, the nurse explain the process for feeding baby. Stage 1 does not include testing the feeding tube; this remains the responsibility of the nurse. Once the nurse has tested the tube, is happy with the position the parent can feed their baby via the syringe and feeding tube and will tell the nurse when the feed is completed.

Level 2 - is the stage at which the nurse will teach parent's to test their babies feeding tube to make sure it is in the correct position and will discuss problems and troubleshooting when you are unable to get an aspirate or the aspirate is not in the safe range. There will always be a nurse close by to help parent.

Level 3 (Home Tube Feeding) - There will be a number of babies that are getting ready for discharge but are not quite ready for fully oral feeding; these babies will be able to go home with the support of the Children's Community Nursing Team. The team, nurses and doctors will discuss this with parents beforehand, they will receive additional information, support, teaching and guidance before that decision is taken.

