

24 HR
24-HR CRIBSIDE ASSISTANCE

PEEL PUBLIC HEALTH

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a baby's foot being held gently by an adult's hand. The baby's foot is the central focus, with its toes curled slightly. The adult's hand is visible from the bottom left, with the thumb and fingers supporting the foot. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

THE NEW BABY MANUAL
FOR DADS

Index



A black and white photograph of a hand holding a coin, possibly a Euro, with the word "PERFORMANCE" overlaid in two styles. The top style is a thin, italicized, sans-serif font, and the bottom style is a thick, bold, italicized, sans-serif font. The background is a blurred image of the hand and coin.

PERFORMANCE
PERFORMANCE



WARNING!

Now that you're a proud father of a new baby, here are a few tips on getting the best performance out of your model.

WARNING! Your baby requires a "breaking-in" period. You need to spend lots of time during this "breaking-in" period to get to know your unique model. Free time might be limited. You might wonder what you've gotten yourself into but be patient. Remember, mom has been test driving this model for the past 9 months and has a head start. Before you know it, you'll be head over heels in love.

It is important to start a good routine of regular maintenance. The baby will become much more portable and flexible as days go on. Taking care of such a small baby may feel awkward at first but the sooner you get to it the faster you will become comfortable in the driver's seat.

Performance

It has been shown that top performing babies have very involved fathers.

Some tips for top performance:

- Love, feed, play with and protect your baby to promote healthy brain development.
- Everyday activities that you do with your baby will help to strengthen the attachment between the two of you.
- Learn to read the signals that tell you when your baby needs you. You may not always know what is wrong, but your job is to try to comfort your baby.
- Make eye contact and talk to your baby. A gentle voice may comfort your baby.



FUEL CONSUMPTION
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Fuel Consumption

A good supply of top grade breast milk and a happy mom are important for top performance of your model.

Breastfeeding:

- is the natural way to feed your baby
- provides all the nutrients your baby needs
- is free
- is portable and requires no mixing or heating
- makes for a smoother running baby (breast milk is easy to digest)
- boosts the immune system which guards against illness (just like rust proofing)
- makes for a quieter operation (less likely to be colicky)
- lets baby eat as much as needed
- reduces the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), infections and obesity later in life.

Father's support is very important for successful breastfeeding.

For a good supply of breast milk, fathers can do the following:

- support mom and tell her she's doing a great job
- learn about breastfeeding together and get technical advice early
- run interference with public, family, meddling neighbours, or whoever challenges her decision to breastfeed
- try to help mom relax and get extra sleep
- whatever mom asks (could be anything at any time of the day or night)
- feed mom
- bring baby to mom
- help with positioning of baby at breast
- check baby's attachment to mom's breast (latch) during operation
- burp baby
- change baby
- hold baby after feedings to help settle to sleep

To make enough breast milk, mom needs rest, sleep, and healthy food. Your help is vital. Cooking (which also includes getting take-out from mom's favourite restaurant), cleaning (yes, the vacuum), answering the phone, entertaining guests (or telling them to come back another time), shopping, doing the laundry and dishes, along with all the things you did before, are a few small things which will help keep the breast milk flowing.

Average Fuel Consumption

8 – 12 feedings per 24 hours (amounts and times are different for every model).
Growth spurts at 3 weeks, 6 weeks, and 3 and 6 months cause an increase in fuel consumption.
During these times, it is normal for a baby to feed frequently for 2 – 4 days. This too will pass.

Adequate fuel consumption can be seen in the following ways:

Waterworks (peeing)

Day 1: 1 wet diaper	Day 2: 2 wet diapers	Day 3: 3 wet diapers	Day 4: 4 wet diapers	Day 5: 6 wet diapers	Day 6 and after: at least 6 wet diapers
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Septic (pooping)

Don't be surprised if every time something goes in, something comes out the other end. However, for the first month, owners should be happy with at least 3 soft poops per day.

Electrical (sleep or activity)

Baby settles after feeds. Baby is active and alert at other times.

Weight

During the first month, baby gains 5 – 10 oz (150 – 300 g) per week; baby regains any lost birth weight by 2 weeks, doubles birth weight by 5 to 6 months, and triples birth weight by a year (remember this is baby not dad).

**** Low Fuel Warning:**

Get help if your baby:

- does not feed at least 8 times in 24 hours
- has fewer number of wet diapers than shown on Waterworks (peeing) chart on page 6
- has less than 6 wet diapers per day (if your baby is 5 days or older)
- has less than 3 soft poops in 24 hours (if your baby is 3 days or older)
- is very sleepy and hard to wake up to feed
- has yellow skin and eyes and is not feeding well



For technical assistance with breastfeeding call:

Region of Peel – Public Health 905-799-7700
visit www.BreastfeedingInPeel.ca to view “how-to” videos

Caledon residents call toll free 905-584-2216
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday

Call your doctor or midwife — Anytime

Call Telehealth Ontario 1-866-797-0000

For those fathers who wish more information regarding breastfeeding, refer to the Region of Peel handbook Breastfeeding Your Baby (given to breastfeeding moms in hospital). Also available by calling Region of Peel – Public Health.



SAFE OPERATION

SAFE OPERATION



Safe Operation

For your baby to have a safe and long life, the manufacturer recommends:

- always use a car seat
- read the instructions before putting together baby equipment (your baby's life depends on it)
- keep one hand on baby at all times during baby care (models may lurch and roll unexpectedly)
- never shake a baby (shaking can cause permanent brain damage and even death)
- put baby to sleep on his/her back to help prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)



DO-IT-YOURSELF SERVICE
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Do-It-Yourself Service

If you think your baby makes too much noise, call Region of Peel – Public Health 905-799-7700, Caledon residents call toll free 905-584-2216 and talk to a public health nurse about it.

Dad's guide to effective burping (the baby that is)

- Burping is helpful to avoid build-up of gas.
- Dads can become pros at this in no time (some babies burp on their own).
- Place baby on your shoulder and pat gently but firmly on the back. This can easily be done sitting in your favourite chair or while strolling around the house.

WARNING! Some models will eject liquid when burping (this is normal). The manufacturer recommends using some kind of tarp (i.e. blanket) on your shoulder or standing near a sink.

Five ways to calm a cranky baby

- Cuddle (you remember cuddling) or hold baby skin-to-skin and wrap a light blanket around both of you.
- While holding baby, gently bounce or walk with the baby while speaking softly ("sh...sh..." works well or point out the interesting features in your workshop or on your computer).
- Whisper in his or her ear.
- Go for a walk or car ride.
- Be silly - sing or make funny faces.



LOOKING UNDER THE HOOD
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Looking Under The Hood

Does it really need to be changed? Some dads prefer the sniff method, some peek, and others can tell by the feel of the diaper.

Oil Changes

- Girls - wipe from front to back.
- Boys - when washing, treat the penis like a finger.
DO NOT PULL BACK FORESKIN.
- Most babies will pee when they get cold, so keep that penis covered unless you want to get showered.
- Tabs come from the back of the diaper and fasten to the front.
- Cloth diapers need to be rinsed in the toilet and stored in the diaper pail.
Don't forget to dispose of the disposables.

Is it supposed to be that colour?

Black - baby's first poops are black and sticky (known as meconium). Once the baby is getting good amounts of breast milk it will change from black to greenish black to brown or yellow.

Mustard coloured - seedy, loose poops are normal for breastfed babies.

White - it is normal for girls to have a whitish jelly-like discharge from their vagina. This will eventually get cleaned off.

Red - girls also can bleed a small amount from the vagina in the first few days. This is normal and is caused by mom's hormones.

Orangey red - babies that are 1 – 3 days old may have one or two orangey-red coloured spots in the diaper. The baby is not bleeding but has passed uric acid crystals. If this continues past 3 days, call your doctor or Region of Peel – Public Health 905-799-7700, Caledon residents call toll free 905-584-2216.



DAD'S TOOL KIT

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Dad's Tool Kit

Your tool kit should contain:

- **diapers - at least 3 or 4**
- **wipes or washcloths**
- **change pad**
- **complete change of clothes for baby** (pick an outfit you can put on easily)
- **diaper cream** (if using)
- **plastic bag** (for dirty diapers)

Sometimes as a dad you may feel awkward, but as your baby grows you will develop a very special relationship.

Even though it may seem like mom is in the driver's seat, take responsibility for some aspect of regular maintenance like the bath or bedtime.



FINE TUNING AND FUN

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Fine Tuning and Fun

Exhaust(ion) is likely with a new baby. Your baby will not sleep through the night for several months. This can be hard on drivers. Babies are designed to wake up and refuel every few hours. Eventually, they will start sleeping longer. In the meantime, try to take turns at sleeping-in, go to bed earlier (and not necessarily at the same time), and nap. If one partner is rested, the other partner can function better.

When will we ever have sex again? It is important to remember that after having a baby, mom needs time to recover – physically and emotionally. Good communication and not pressuring or rushing mom helps. Don't forget to use birth control. Condoms and foam are a good choice if mom is ready for sex before she sees the doctor at around six weeks. Mom may be hesitant at first. However, with time (and some sleep), this should pass.

For a well-tuned family, it is important to talk to mom and maintain your relationship as a couple. Talk about something (anything) other than the baby. Remember, mom drives this model all day. You may be worried about balancing work and home. This may be a time to look at your options and talk to your partner about them. Plan time together. Go on a date.

Troubleshooting

Problems	Causes	What to do?
Crying baby	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hungry• Tired• Gas • Boredom• Uncomfortable • Smelly or damp	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feed your baby.• Rock baby gently in your arms.• Burp baby during and after feeding.• Hold baby and rub his/her back while walking around your house singing your favourite tunes.• Change baby's surroundings.• Make sure baby is not too hot or too cold. Dress baby as you are, plus one layer. Your baby's chest, tummy and back should feel warm, and not sweaty or cool.• Make sure nothing is pinching or poking baby. Even check inside clothing.• Change diaper (and clothes if necessary).
Crying or Anxious Mom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Normal baby blues• Overtired and overwhelmed • Postpartum depression or anxiety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be supportive and reassuring. Be patient.• Encourage mom to nap, take over as many household chores as possible (take initiative and don't wait for mom to ask for help), limit visitors, tell her what a good job she's doing.• Encourage mom to seek professional help if she continues to doubt her parenting skills, has feelings of sadness, anger, anxiety, guilt or difficulty sleeping for more than 2 weeks.

Troubleshooting

Problems	Causes	What to do?
Breastfeeding difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sore nipples • Full and/or sore breasts • Mom and baby learning what to do 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with positioning and latch. • Encourage mom to keep breastfeeding, breastfeed as often as she can, get help to correct the latch and try cool compresses for comfort. Call Peel Public Health's breastfeeding desk at 905-799-7700 to talk to a public health nurse, Caledon residents call toll free 905-584-2216. Other available help includes La Leche League, or your doctor or midwife. • Don't give up too quickly because breast milk really is the best food for your baby. • Sore or tender breasts may occur when milk comes in – this will pass. • Support and encourage mom.
Noisy exhaust system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal infant bowel sounds (sometimes heard across the room) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change diaper and do laundry.

Troubleshooting

Problems	Causes	What to do?
Spots, blotches, red rash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal newborn rash (anywhere on body) • Diaper area • Thrush (white spots in baby's mouth that look like milk curds) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing. (It takes a while for baby's skin to get used to air so they tend to get a lot of rashes, spots, etc.) • If it looks strange, compare notes with mom and call for help if needed Region of Peel – Public Health 905-799-7700, Caledon residents call toll free 905-584-2216. • Go to the doctor as baby needs medication for thrush - mom also needs to see the doctor if she is breastfeeding.
Cone head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The birth process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing. Baby's head will become less pointy in a very short time.
Anything	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't know 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call Region of Peel – Public Health 905-799-7700, Caledon residents call toll free 905-584-2216. You may speak to a public health nurse Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. • Visit: www.ParentingInPeel.ca www.BreastfeedingInPeel.ca www.pmdInPeel.ca



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HELP

Call **Region of Peel – Public Health 905-799-7700**,
Caledon residents call toll free 905-584-2216
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday
Or visit www.ParentingInPeel.ca

Call or see your Family Doctor or Midwife



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