

# Infant Behavior

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## Infant Behaviors

- Alertness
- Visual Response
- Auditory Response
- Habituation
- Cuddliness
- Consolability
- Motor Behavior



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## Orientation

- Newborn's ability to respond to visual and auditory stimuli



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## Habituation



- Newborn's response to unwanted stimuli
- Reflects CNS maturity

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## Cuddliness

- Newborn's response to being held
- Seems to convey affection
- Understanding facilitates parents feelings of competence



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## Consoling by Infants

- Moves hands to mouth
  - Sucks on fingers, fist or tongue
  - Pays attention to voices or faces around them
  - Changes position
- **CRY IT OUT is Dangerous!**  
**Discourage this behavior!!!**



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## Consolability

- Newborns have ability to self soothe for short periods.
- Typically will need help to calm and settle.
- Reflects CNS maturity



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## Consoling by Caregivers

- Talk in a steady, soft voice
- Hold infant's arms close to the body
- Swaddle
- Pick up
- Rock
- Feed
- Change a wet or dirty diaper



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## Motor Behavior



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### Engagement Cues

- Smiling
- Smooth movements of arms and legs
- Reaching or turning toward someone
- Babbling or cooing
- Eyes wide and bright
- Alert face
- Grasping or holding onto the caregiver or objects
- Hand-to-mouth activity



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### Disengagement Cues



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*A critical task of parents after birth is to learn to correctly interpret their baby's behavior and understand the baby's style.*

*Nurses are in a position to assist parents in learning about their baby's unique characteristics.*

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Baby Behavior Video  
Dr. Jane Heinig

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6K302u0Bk0w>  
Lecture 12: Attachment

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# Questions?



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