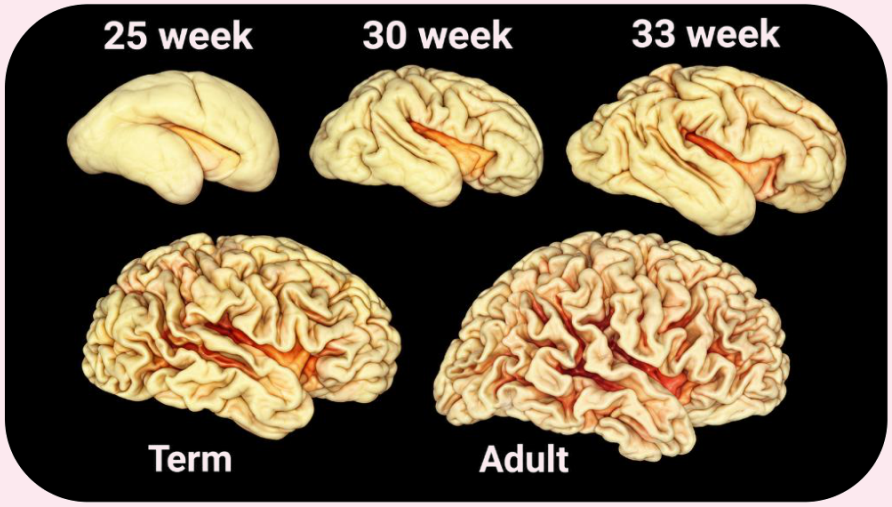
Why is this so important?



The premature brain is still developing.

**The infant is learning
based on their experiences.**

**Milk drops
help the infant
make enjoyable connections
to eating.**





We will give your parents two scent hearts to wear and bring back to place near your face Your parent's scent is familiar and comforting.



After cares, we will place you on <u>your side</u> or your parents can hold you skin to skin

We will place your <u>hands by your face</u> so you learn to comfort yourself as you taste and suck on your fingers.





1. We will place 1-2 drops of milk on your lips. As you smell and taste the milk...
2. We will <u>OFFER</u> you a swab or pacifier
3. If you open your mouth <u>TO ACCEPT</u> the swab or pacifier we will offer you more milk a drop at a time as you suck.
4. If you <u>RESPOND</u> by sticking out your tongue or just licking milk...we will offer you more milk a drop at a time as you lick the milk
5. If you <u>DON'T RESPOND</u> we will let you rest, and offer milk drops at your next feeding.



As often as possible...
We will help Mom & Dad hold you skin to skin

- helps keep warm
- improves breathing
- increases sleep time
- helps calm / relax
- increase milk supply
- stabilizes heartrate
- improves oxygenation
- increase weight gain
- decrease crying
- helps parents bond

Before you were born…
you were practicing to eat



you could
smell, taste,
suck, and swallow