Most babies with Down syndrome have the ability to breastfeed.

**Considerations with Breastfeeding in the hospital**

**Benefits of Breast Milk**
- Less otitis media
- Easy to digest
- Less constipating
- Baby can regulate flow
- Less respiratory disease
- Less gastroenteritis and obesity

**Impact on Breastfeeding**
- Need more trunk/head support due to hypotonia
- Positions may need to be varied - swallowing and feeding problems
- Expend energy with feedings - tiredness and poor feeding patterns
Benefits of Breastfeeding

• Helps with normal mouth and tongue coordination
• Helps to stimulate mastication and chewing movements
• Strengthens the maxillary muscle which in turn supports the development of speech

Positions

• Modified clutch
• Modified Transitional Hold
• Dancer Hand Position

Dancer Hand Position

ABM Clinical Protocol #16: Breastfeeding the Hypotonic Infant, Revision 2016
Importance of Pumping

- Pump after feedings
- Increase breast milk supply
- When to start pumping

Manual Expression

- Importance of manual expression
- Massage the breast before and during feedings
This is still a Newborn!

- Skin to Skin
- Frequent Feedings

Questions

References:


