

**Submission no. 392**

AUTHORISED: 20/6/07 *Bz*

From Beatrice GILL .

Yes , I had a hard time .

The first few weeks was alright.

Then I had an accident when my son was 6 weeks and could not use my right arm at all :

- I was feeding him at the hospital , straight after surgery and it was not working , I could not hold him as I had a plasta up to the elbow . I was " forced " by the nurse to continue breastfeeding ( BF ) as she said it was the best thing for him . I was bombed out with Morphine and fainted because it was too much for me . But I kept going .

- I had to use pillow when I was feeding on the right side . I could not lift his head to my breast and my back became sore really quickly as I was not comfortable , no balance .

- I had many blocked ducts and I had to massage my breast many times a day with my other hand , leaning on the top of my son so he can unblock my breast ... I was crying because it was so sore and it was humiliating ...

- At the age of 3 months , my son became fussy and was doing his " dance " on my breast . He was frustrated , unhappy and ... straving . I found later on that the stress from the accident , dried my milk a bit so I started on him on one bottle a day .

- When I decided to stop BF , I had to be on medication as my milk kept coming back ... I was in agony everytime I was dropping a feed and replacing it by a bottle : waiting at 3:00 in the morning , in tears , for my son to wake up and in the mean time , expressing my milk a bit as my breast was so engorged ... And I'm not talking about all the leaf cabbages that I put in my breast ...

I come from a country were BF is NOT " forced " . Here is Australia , you are in BIG TROUBLE if you DON' T BF . It's a personnal choice and NO ONE has the right to tell you what's best ...

Thank you for asking about BF stories .

Regards , Beatrice .