

Submission no. 466

AUTHORISED:

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Dear Ms Brown,

I found it really difficult to feed my first child. He didn't seem to latch on properly every time and he was jaundiced and very groggy which meant that he fell to sleep every time I did get him on. I persisted for a couple of weeks and tried expressing but with big sores on my nipples (holes really which have scarred) and blood coming out of the sores I gave up.

My second child fed well but I was concerned as he was wholly tounge tied. The Paed who examined him at birth did not even see it despite his tounge being heart shaped when he opened his mouth. I continually pointed this out to every health professional whose only response was "he seems to be getting milk". Babies with tounge tie, I later learned from a lactation consultant, causes babies to "chomp" and this inevitably causes damage to the nipple. In the end, I only fed for a couple of weeks as my nipples were too sore to get the baby to attach, and I had the tie cut. It's a shame this was not addressed in hospital as I feel I could have successfully fed this baby as there were no problems with attachment.

Finally, I have found the majority of QLD health nurses to have a poor manner of facillitating feeding which involves pinching the nipple and forcing the babies head on. I even saw this on a tv show of qld health nurses. This is totally at odds with any mother I have ever seen feed her baby and with the advice given to me by the lactation consultant I hired for both of my babies.

I would be happy to provide any further information that you may require.

Kind Regards,
Danielle Corbett

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