

24 HR  
24-HR CRIBSIDE ASSISTANCE

PEEL PUBLIC HEALTH

THE NEW BABY MANUAL  
FOR DADS



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## Index

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*PERFORMANCE*  
**PERFORMANCE**



**WARNING!**

Now that you're a proud father of a new baby, here are a few tips on getting the best performance out of your model.

**WARNING!** Your baby requires a "breaking-in" period. You need to spend lots of time during this "breaking-in period" to get to know your unique model. Free time might be limited. You might wonder what you've gotten yourself into but be patient. Remember, mom has been test driving this model for the past 9 months and has a head start. Before you know it, you'll be head over heels in love.

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## Performance

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It is important to start a good routine of regular maintenance. The baby will become much more portable and flexible as days go on. Taking care of such a small baby may feel awkward at first but the sooner you get to it the faster you will become comfortable in the driver's seat.

It has been shown that top performing babies have very involved fathers.

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a person's hands holding a document. The person is wearing a light-colored, possibly white, sleeveless top. The document is held in a way that suggests it is being reviewed or signed. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a desk or table with some papers. Overlaid on the bottom half of the image is the text 'FUEL CONSUMPTION' in a white, italicized, sans-serif font, and 'EL CONSUMPTION' in a larger, bold, black, italicized, sans-serif font below it.

*FUEL CONSUMPTION*  
**EL CONSUMPTION**



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## Fuel Consumption

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A good supply of top grade breast milk and a happy mom are important to top performance of your model.

Breastfeeding:

- is best for baby
- is free
- is portable and requires no mixing or heating
- makes for a smoother running baby (breast milk is easy to digest)
- boosts the immune system which guards against illness (just like rust proofing)
- makes for a quieter operation (less likely to be colicky)
- lets baby eat as much as he/she needs
- reduces the risk of crib death (SIDS - Sudden Infant Death Syndrome)

Father's support is very important for successful breastfeeding.

For a good supply of breast milk, fathers can do the following:

- go to breastfeeding classes with mom for technical advice
- feed mom
- bring baby to mom
- help with positioning of baby at breast
- check baby's attachment to mom's breast (latch) during operation
- support mom and tell her she's doing a great job
- burp baby
- change baby when asked or whenever needed
- hold baby after feedings to help settle to sleep
- run interference with public, family, meddling neighbours, or whoever challenges her decision to breastfeed
- try to help mom relax and get extra sleep
- whatever mom asks (could be anything at any time of the day or night)

To make enough breast milk, mom needs rest, sleep, and food. Your help is vital. Cooking (which also includes getting take-out from mom's favourite restaurant), cleaning (yes, the vacuum), answering the phone, entertaining guests (or telling them to come back another time), shopping, doing the laundry and dishes, along with all the things you did before, are a few small things which will help keep the breast milk flowing.

## Average Fuel Consumption

8 – 12 feedings per 24 hours (amounts and times are different for every model)  
Growth spurts at 3 weeks, 6 weeks, and 3 and 6 months cause an increase in fuel consumption.  
During these times, it is normal for a baby to feed frequently for 2 – 4 days. This too will pass.

Adequate fuel consumption can be seen in the following ways:

## Waterworks (peeing)

Day 1: 1 wet diaper	Day 2: 2 wet diapers	Day 3: 3 wet diapers	Day 4: 4 wet diapers	Day 5: 5 wet diapers	Day 6 and after: at least 6 wet diapers	
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## Septic (pooping)

Don't be surprised if every time something goes in, something comes out the other end. However, for the first month, owners should be happy with 4 or more soft poops per day.



## Electrical (sleep or activity)

Baby settles after feeds. Baby is active and alert at other times.

## Weight

During the first month, baby gains 5 – 10 oz (150 – 300 g) per week; baby regains any lost birth weight by 2 – 3 weeks, doubles birth weight by 5 to 6 months, and triples birth weight by a year (remember this is baby not dad).

### \*\* Low Fuel Warning:

Get help if your baby:

- does not feed at least 8 times in 24 hours
- has fewer number of wet diapers than number of days old (if your baby is less than 6 days old)
- has less than 6 wet diapers per day (if your baby is 6 days or older)
- is very sleepy and hard to wake up to feed
- has yellow skin and eyes and is not feeding well
- has less than one dirty diaper in 24 hours



**For technical assistance with breastfeeding call:**

**Health Line Peel 905-799-7700,**

**Caledon residents call Toll Free  
905-584-2216**

**8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday**

**Call your doctor or midwife — Anytime**

**Call Telehealth Ontario 1-866-797-0000**

For those fathers who wish more information regarding breastfeeding, refer to the Region of Peel handbook Breastfeeding Your Baby (given to breastfeeding moms in hospital). Also available by calling Health Line Peel.



*SAFE OPERATION*

**SAFE OPERATION**



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## Safe Operation

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### **For your baby to have a safe and long life, the manufacturer recommends:**

- always use a car seat
- read the instructions before putting together baby equipment (your baby's life depends on it)
- keep one hand on baby at all times during diaper changes (models may lurch and roll unexpectedly)
- never shake a baby (shaking can cause permanent brain damage and even death)
- put baby to sleep on his/her back to help prevent SIDS



*DO-IT-YOURSELF SERVICE*  
**DO-IT-YOURSELF SERVICE**



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## Do-It-Yourself Service

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**(You may want to look around to see who is watching first).**

If you think your baby makes too much noise, call Health Line Peel 905-799-7700, Caledon residents call toll free 905-584-2216 and talk to a public health nurse about it.

### **Dad's guide to effective burping** (the baby that is)

- Burping is helpful to avoid build-up of gas.
- Dads can become pros at this in no time (some babies burp on their own).
- Place baby on your shoulder and pat gently but firmly on the back. This can easily be done sitting in your favourite chair or while strolling around the house.

**WARNING!** Some models will eject liquid when burping (this is normal). The manufacturer recommends using some kind of tarp (i.e. blanket) on your shoulder or standing near a sink.

### **Five ways to calm a cranky baby**

- Cuddle (you remember cuddling) or wrap baby up in a blanket.
- While holding baby, gently bounce or walk with the baby while speaking softly ("sh...sh..." works well or point out the interesting features in your workshop or on your computer).
- Whisper in his or her ear.
- Go for a walk or car ride.
- Be silly - sing or make funny faces.



*LOOKING UNDER THE HOOD*

**LOOKING UNDER THE HOOD**

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## Looking Under The Hood

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Does it really need to be changed? Some dads prefer the sniff method, some peek, and others can tell by the feel of the diaper.



## Oil Changes

- Girls - wipe from front to back.
- Boys - when washing, treat the penis like a finger.  
DO NOT PULL BACK FORESKIN
- Most babies will pee when they get cold, so keep that penis covered unless you want to get showered.
- Tabs come from the back of the diaper and fasten to the front.
- Cloth diapers need to be rinsed in the toilet and stored in the diaper pail.  
Don't forget to dispose of the disposables.

Is it supposed to be that colour?

**Black** - baby's first poops are black and sticky (known as meconium). Once the baby is getting good amounts of breast milk (or formula) it will change from black to greenish black to brown or yellow.

**Mustard coloured** - seedy, loose poops are normal for breastfed babies.

**White** - it is normal for girls to have a whitish jelly-like discharge from their vagina. This will eventually get cleaned off.

**Red** - girls also can bleed a small amount from the vagina in the first few days. This is normal and is caused by mom's hormones.

**Orangey red** - babies that are 1 – 3 days old may have one or two orangey-red coloured spots in the diaper. The baby is not bleeding but has passed uric acid crystals. If this continues past 3 days, call your doctor or Health Line Peel 905-799-7700, Caledon residents call toll free 905-584-2216.



*DAD'S TOOL KIT*

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## Dad's Tool Kit

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Your tool kit should contain:

- **diapers - at least 3 or 4**
- **wipes**
- **change pad**
- **complete change of clothes for baby** (pick an outfit you can put on easily)
- **diaper cream** (if using)
- **plastic bag** (for dirty diapers)

Sometimes as a dad you may feel awkward, but as your baby grows you will develop a very special relationship.

Even though it may seem like mom is in the driver's seat, take responsibility for some aspect of regular maintenance like the bath or bedtime.



*FINE TUNING AND FUN*

FINE TUNING AND FUN



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## *Fine Tuning and Fun*

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Exhaust(ion) is likely with a new baby. Your baby will not sleep through the night for several months. This can be hard on drivers. Babies are designed to wake up and refuel every few hours. Eventually, they will start sleeping longer. In the meantime, try to take turns at sleeping-in, go to bed earlier (and not necessarily at the same time), and nap. If one partner is rested, the other partner can function better.

**When will we ever have sex again?** It is important to remember that after having a baby, mom needs time to recover. Good communication and not pressuring or rushing mom helps. Don't forget to use birth control. Condoms and foam are a good choice if mom is ready for sex before she sees the doctor at around six weeks. Mom may be hesitant at first. However, with time (and some sleep), this shall pass.

For a well-tuned family, it is important to talk to mom and maintain your relationship as a couple. Talk about something (anything) other than the baby. Remember, mom drives this model all day. You may be worried about balancing work and home. This may be a time to look at your options and talk to your partner about them. Plan time together. Go on a date.

# Troubleshooting

Problems	Causes	What to do?
Crying baby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hungry</li><li>• Tired</li><li>• Gas</li> <li>• Boredom</li><li>• Cold</li><li>• Uncomfortable</li> <li>• Smelly or damp</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feed your baby.</li><li>• Rock baby gently in your arms or in a cradle.</li><li>• Burp baby during and after feeding.</li><li>• Hold baby and rub his/her back while walking around your house singing your favourite tunes.</li><li>• Change baby's surroundings.</li><li>• Bundle baby in blanket or put on another layer of clothing.</li><li>• Take off a layer or clothing if baby is too hot.</li><li>• Make sure nothing is pinching or poking baby.</li><li>• Change diaper (and clothes if necessary).</li></ul>
Crying Mom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Normal baby blues</li><li>• Overtired and overwhelmed</li> <li>• Postpartum depression</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be supportive and reassuring. Be patient.</li><li>• Encourage mom to nap, take over as many household chores as possible (take initiative and don't wait for mom to ask for help), limit visitors, tell her what a good job she's doing.</li><li>• Encourage mom to seek professional help if feelings of sadness, anger, guilt, anxiety, fatigue and inadequacy persist.</li></ul>

# Troubleshooting

Problems	Causes	What to do?
Breastfeeding difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sore nipples</li><li>• Full and/or sore breasts</li> <li>• Mom and baby learning what to do</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Help with positioning and latch.</li><li>• Encourage mom to get help before she stops breastfeeding. Call Peel Public Health's breastfeeding desk at 905-799-7700 to talk to a Public Health Nurse (Caledon residents call toll free 905-584-2216). Other available help includes La Leche League, or your doctor or midwife. Don't give up too quickly because breast milk really is the best food for your baby</li><li>• Encourage mom to feed more often. Sore or tender breasts are normal when milk comes in – this too will pass.</li><li>• Support and encourage mom.</li></ul>
Noisy exhaust system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Normal infant bowel sounds (sometimes heard across the room)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Change diaper and do laundry.</li></ul>



# Troubleshooting

Problems	Causes	What to do?
Spots, blotches, red rash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Normal newborn rash (anywhere on body)</li><li>• Diaper area</li> <li>• Thrush (white spots in baby's mouth that look like milk curds)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nothing. (It takes a while for baby's skin to get used to air so they tend to get a lot of rashes, spots, etc.)</li><li>• If it looks strange, compare notes with mom and call for help if needed (Health Line Peel 905-799-7700, Caledon residents call toll free 905-584-2216).</li><li>• Go to the doctor as baby needs medication for thrush - mom also needs to see the doctor if she is breastfeeding.</li></ul>
Cone head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The birth process</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nothing. Baby's head will become less pointy in a very short time.</li></ul>
Anything	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Don't know</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Call <b>Health Line Peel 905-799-7700, Caledon residents call toll free 905-584-2216</b>. You may speak to a Public Health Nurse Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.</li></ul>



## FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HELP

Call **Health Line Peel 905-799-7700**,  
Caledon residents call toll free 905-584-2216  
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday  
Or visit [peelregion.ca/health](http://peelregion.ca/health)

Call or see your Family Doctor or Midwife



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