

Specialty Feeding System: Dr. Brown's Specialty Feeding System

Babies born with a cleft lip and/or palate usually have a harder time feeding.

- A baby with a cleft lip alone may be able to breastfeed normally or with a little help, depending on the size of the cleft.
- Babies with a cleft palate almost always need a special feeding system for feedings to be safe and efficient.
- Babies with a cleft palate may have a weak suck or may have a hard time creating enough suction to breastfeed or get milk/formula from a regular bottle.
- Babies can go to the breast for comfort and to support mother's milk supply but breastfeeding alone often doesn't provide enough food and nutrition.
- Babies with a cleft palate may have liquid or food go into and come out of their nose during and after feeding. This is because of the open area of the palate that is between the nose and the mouth.

What is the Dr. Brown's Specialty Feeding System?

- The **Dr. Brown's Specialty Feeding System** includes a bottle and nipple with a special blue valve called the Infant-Paced Feeding Valve. This valve sits inside the base of the nipple.
- This system helps create flow when the baby sucks.
- This is a compression-based system, so every time the baby compresses or squeezes their mouth the liquid is free flowing.

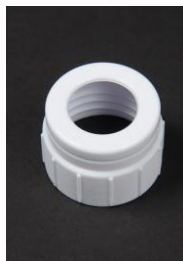
What are the parts of the Dr. Brown's Specialty Feeding System?

Feeding System Parts Include:

1. Dr. Brown nipple



2. Collar



3. Reservoir



4. Blue unidirectional flow valve
"Infant Paced Feeding Valve"



5. Insert (the vent)

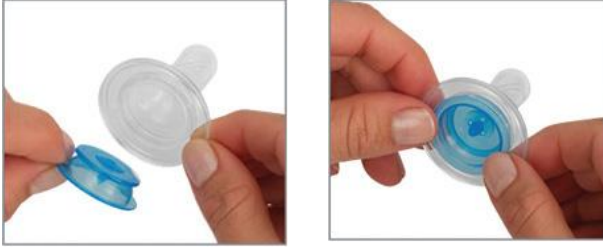


6. Dr. Brown's bottle

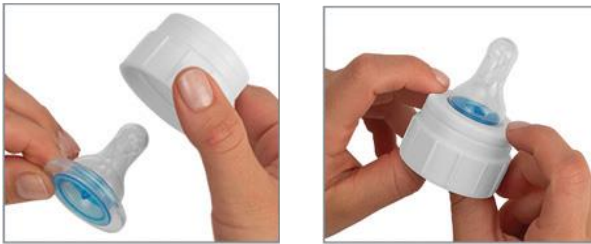


How to assemble the bottle

1. Put the blue flow valve into the nipple. Make sure the valve is fully secure and flush with the nipple base.



2. Push the nipple into the nipple collar making sure the nipple is fully seated.



3. Snap the reservoir onto the insert and put the reservoir into the bottle. Make sure the insert is making full contact with the top of the bottle.

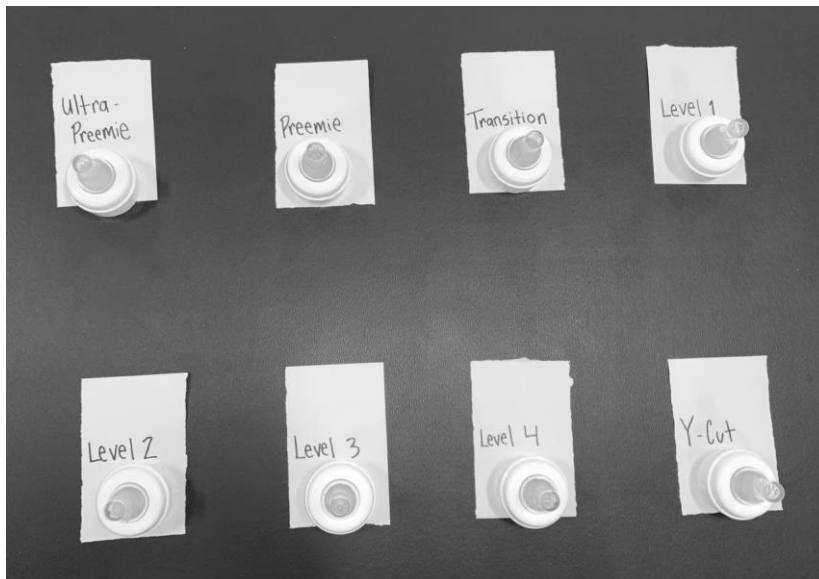


4. Put the nipple collar loosely on the bottle.



Different levels of nipples

- There are different levels of nipples for flow rate.
- The levels range from Ultra-Preemie to Level 4.
- To find what level of nipple you are using, the level of the nipple is located on the collar or on the side of the nipple.
- This is not a grading system.
- The level of nipple is the size of the hole in the nipple, with the Ultra-Preemie being the smallest hole and Level 4 being the largest hole.
- Choosing a nipple depends on your baby's feeding skills and ability to feed safely.
- Don't change the level of the nipple without talking to your baby's feeding specialist or medical team.



How to use the bottle correctly with feedings

1. Offer the bottle with a Transition nipple first.
2. Always check the end of the nipple before each feeding to make sure the hole is open, working, and there is no tear in the nipple.
3. Milk/formula will begin to flow into the nipple as your baby starts to suck.
 - If your baby can't easily suck through the nipple, you may consider trying a Dr. Brown Level 1 nipple.
 - Signs to watch for include: your baby taking longer than 30 minutes to feed, working hard at feeding but not getting much out of the nipple and/or gets tired during the feeding.
 - If your baby seems like they are getting too much milk from the bottle, try a slower flowing nipple such as the Preemie or Ultra-Preemie.
 - Signs to watch for include: your baby pulling away from the nipple, looks surprised when feeding, coughing, choking, gagging and/or the feed is pouring out of the corners of their mouth.

Positioning your baby when feeding

Most babies with a cleft lip and/or a cleft palate will feed better if they are in an upright cradled position to help keep the liquid from going back up into their nose.

1. Try to keep feeding times less than 30 minutes, including time for burping. If feedings last longer than 30 minutes, your baby may be working too hard and burning too many calories.
2. You may need to burp your baby every ½ - 1 ounce because they could be taking in extra air with feeding because of the cleft.



How to clean the bottle

- This bottle system is not a disposable system. The entire bottle system, nipple/teat and valve can be reused. It should be cleaned with hot, soapy water after each use.
- Make sure to wash all parts before using.
- It takes a small amount of extra time to clean the 2 additional vent assembly parts. This is time well spent to avoid spit ups and other discomforts to your baby.

Once the bottle system, including all parts, has been cleaned it can also be sanitized.

To sanitize the bottle system, you can use the:

- Dr. Brown Microwave Steam Sterilizer Bags (follow the instructions printed on the bag).
- Dr. Brown Electric Sterilizer.
- Dr. Brown Microwave Steam Sterilizer. This is different from the microwave Steam Sterilizer Bags listed above.

When Cleaning the system:

1. Always use clean hands and surfaces.
2. Fully disconnect all the parts.
3. Silicone nipple: for the first use only - boil the nipple in water for 5 minutes.
4. After use, wash all parts in hot water and detergent.
5. Rinse all parts throughouly, making sure the nipple hole is clean and clear.
6. Make sure to use the small brush that comes with the bottle system to clean the vent and the reservoir.

childrenscolorado.org

Author: Cleft lip and Palate | Approved by Patient Education Committee | Valid through 2024

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IN CARE OF KIDS

7. This system, including all parts, can also be cleaned in the top rack of a dishwasher. If you use a dishwasher to clean the bottle system make sure to place all parts on the top rack only.



How to order the bottle:

- You can order the Dr. Brown's Specialty Feeding System on the Dr. Brown's website at <https://www.drbrownsbaby.com/>.
- You can also order it from Amazon.
- When you order this specialty bottle system, make sure you are ordering the Dr. Brown's Specialty Feeding System with the blue valve and blue insert.

If you have questions or concerns

- Contact Dr. Brown's at the above website.
- Contact the feeding specialist and/or the medical team who recommended this feeding system.

Helpful hints when using this system

- The Blue Infant Paced Feeding Valve doesn't work with the new green Dr. Brown's insert.
- The Dr. Brown's Specialty Feeding System won't work with different colored inserts.
- If the bottle is leaking, check that the bottle system has been put together correctly.
- Check the nipple regularly to be sure that it isn't ripped or too soft.
- Families will need 2-3 extra bottles before being discharged from the hospital.