

Types of Nipples Used in the NICU

Enfamil Slow-Flow Nipple (Green Ring):



WHAT IS THE FLOW RATE?

- This is the hospital slow-flow nipple, disposable
- Slowest flow rate for the disposable nipples
- Variable flow rates between each individual nipples because they are not laser cut

WHO USES IT?

- Any infant (TNB, PTNB) could benefit from the slower flow rate to assist with SSB coordination.

WHERE CAN I BUY IT?

- not readily available to buy in the community

Enfamil Standard Nipple (Blue Ring):



WHAT IS THE FLOW RATE?

- This is the hospital standard or MEDIUM flow rate, disposable
- This nipple is a faster flow rate than the Enfamil Slow-Flow nipple (green ring)
- Variable flow rates between each individual nipples because they are not laser cut

WHO USES IT?

- Term newborns without feeding issues

WHERE CAN I BUY IT?

- Not readily available to buy in the community

Dr. Brown's Level 1 Nipple:



WHAT IS THE FLOW RATE?

- Considered Dr. Brown's "slow flow" nipple
- Marketed with air vent system to maintain positive pressure to reduce colic, spit up, burping, and gas
- The Level 1 nipple is a comparable flow rate to the Enfamil Slow-Flow nipple (green ring).

WHO USES IT?

- Any infant (TNB, PTNB) could benefit from the slower flow rate to assist with SSB coordination.

WHERE CAN I BUY IT?

- It comes standard with most Dr. Brown's bottles bought in the store.
- You can buy it in most major stores.

This information was created and reviewed through a partnership with the UAMS Patient and Family Advisory Councils and the UAMS Center for Health Literacy.

NUK Slow-Flow Nipple:



WHAT IS THE FLOW RATE?

- Orthodontic nipple with a broader base, soft
- Despite being a slow flow nipple, it has a fast flow rate.

WHO USES IT?

- This nipple is appropriate for infants with a “munching” suck pattern or very high palatal vaults that affect the lingual palatal seal.
- Not recommended for most PTNBs or infants who are breastfeeding.

WHERE CAN I BUY IT?

- You can buy it in most major stores.

Dr. Brown’s Preemie Nipple:



WHAT IS THE FLOW RATE?

- The Dr. Brown’s Preemie nipple is a slower flow rate than the Dr. Brown’s Level 1 nipple and the Enfamil Slow-Flow nipple.

WHO USES IT?

- This nipple is a good option for premature infants who are having difficulty with a slow-flow nipple.
- Babies needing this reduced flow rate are followed by SLP services.

WHERE CAN I BUY IT?

- The Preemie nipple is not available in most major stores. You can buy it at Babies “R” Us and order it online at Amazon.com.

Dr. Brown’s Ultra Preemie Nipple:



WHAT IS THE FLOW RATE?

- The Dr. Brown’s Ultra Preemie nipple is 35% slower flow rate than the Dr. Brown’s Preemie nipple.
- Babies needing this reduced flow rate are followed by SLP services for aspiration risks.

WHO USES IT?

- This is an option for infants who appear unsafe from a swallowing standpoint with all other nipple options.
- If a baby needs this nipple, consider caution with po advancement.

WHERE CAN I BUY IT?

- This nipple is not available for purchase outside of the hospital.
- This is not an appropriate nipple for discharge home.

Dr. Brown's Level 2 Nipple:



WHAT IS THE FLOW RATE?

- Advertised as the “3-6 months” nipple
- Faster flow rate than the Level 1 nipple

WHO USES IT?

- Rarely used in the NICU with thin liquids
- Mostly used with thickened liquids (typically nectar consistency)

WHERE CAN I BUY IT?

- You can buy it in most major stores.

Dr. Brown's Level 3 Nipple:



WHAT IS THE FLOW RATE?

- Advertised as the “6-9 months” nipple
- Faster flow rate than the Level 2 nipple

WHO USES IT?

- Rarely used in the NICU with thin liquids
- Mostly used with thickened liquids (typically nectar, stiff nectar, or honey consistency)

WHERE CAN I BUY IT?

- You can buy it in most major stores.

Pigeon Bottle:



WHAT IS THE FLOW RATE?

- Specialty cleft bottle
- It is a Y-cut nipple that has a thick and thin side with a one way valve which helps with liquid expression.
- Nipples come in small and regular sizes.
- It has a faster flow rate to assist with liquid expression.

WHO USES IT?

- Infants with cleft lip or cleft palate
- Can also be used with infants who have reduced sucking strength/lingual palatal seal.

WHERE CAN I BUY IT?

- Online only for purchase
- If patient is followed by ENT, they can get bottles at the ACH Cleft Clinic.

Medela Special Needs Feeder (Haberman Bottle):



WHAT IS THE FLOW RATE?

- Specialty cleft bottle
- Has a one-way valve to help with liquid expression.
- Has 3 different flow rates (slow, medium, fast) depending on placement of the nipple in infant's oral cavity.
- You have the option to provide assistive squeezing with sucking effort to assist with liquid expression.

WHO USES IT?

- Infants with cleft lip or cleft palate
- Good to use with infants who have Pierre Robin sequence.

WHERE CAN I BUY IT?

- Online only for purchase
- If patient is followed by ENT, they can get bottles at the ACH Cleft Clinic.

Dr. Brown's Cleft Specialty Bottle:



WHAT IS THE FLOW RATE?

- Specialty cleft bottle
- Any Dr. Brown's nipple will fit into the bottle.
- It has a one way valve to help with liquid expression.

WHO USES IT?

- Infants with cleft lip or cleft palate
- Can also be used with infants who have reduced sucking strength and reduced liquid expression.

WHERE CAN I BUY IT?

- Online only for purchase
- If patient is followed by ENT, they can get bottles at the ACH Cleft Clinic.