



The Science, Practice + Benefits of
SKIN-TO-SKIN CONTACT
for You + Baby

About

Skin-to-Skin Contact

Over 40 years of research has proven that in the early months of life, Skin-to-Skin contact, also referred to as Kangaroo Care, creates remarkable benefits for you and your baby.

Skin-to-Skin contact is a method of holding your baby, who is only wearing a diaper, placed vertically on mom's bare chest, creating full chest to chest contact. Holding your baby this way stimulates the C-afferent nerve, which produces a hormonal cascade, and when practiced for an uninterrupted 60 minutes, delivers physiological and psychological benefits for both mom and baby.

The outer layer of our skin, over the front of our chest, is especially sensitive and powerful.



It's packed with nerve fibers that release hormones and eliminate stress responses in the brain and body. These extremely sensitive nerves, the C-afferent nerves, respond only to pleasing human touch. When the nerves are stimulated, it sends a message of pleasure directly to the brain. In response, the brain produces oxytocin, which initiates the hormonal cascade delivering the benefits of Skin-to-Skin contact!

The practice of Skin-to-Skin is so valuable to mom + baby
THAT IT'S WIDELY RECOMMENDED BY LEADING HEALTH
ORGANIZATIONS, such as:



The *Benefits* of Skin-to-Skin Contact for Baby

Accelerates

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Skin-to-Skin contact is a multi-sensory experience. Holding baby on your skin increases the development of essential neural pathways, which accelerates brain maturation. In addition, research shows that kangaroo'ed babies spend more time in quiet sleep, which enhances organizational patterns in the brain and decreases baby's stress responses.

No.1



Calms. Soothes.

REDUCES CRYING/STRESS

The direct connection with your skin during Kangaroo Care soothes baby so much that babies' cortisol levels (stress hormone) are measurably lowered after only 20 minutes of being held Skin-to-Skin. And, remarkably, their pain is reduced when held Skin-to-Skin. As a result, babies who experience regular Kangaroo Care often cry less and appear less agitated.

No.2



Regulates

BODY TEMPERATURE

Maintaining body temperature is essential for young infants who do not yet have the skills to keep themselves warm. Nature takes care of that through a process known as thermoregulation. Within minutes of being held Skin-to-Skin, the mother's breasts automatically adjust to cool baby down or warm him up, in response to what baby needs. And if you have twins, mom's breasts can act independently to take care of multiple babies at once.

No.3



Improves

QUALITY OF SLEEP

Development of mature brain function in infants depends on the quality of their sleep cycling. During Kangaroo Care, most infants fall asleep easily, and achieve what is called "Quiet Sleep", a natural deep sleep for 60 minutes or more. This is important, because research points to Quiet Sleep as one of the most beneficial for accelerating brain patterning and maturation.

No.4



The *Benefits* of Skin-to-Skin Contact for Baby

...continued

Enhances

IMMUNE SYSTEM

No.5



Baby's immune system is stimulated when placed Skin-to-Skin. Mom's mature immune system passes antibodies through her skin and breast milk to baby. Being on mom's skin also increases baby's skin hydration, which provides a protective barrier from harmful bacteria entering baby's skin.

Stimulates

DIGESTION + WEIGHT GAIN

No.6



Kangaroo Care reduces cortisol + somatostatin in babies, allowing for better absorption and digestion of nutrients, while lessening gastrointestinal problems. With a reduction of these hormones, their bodies preserve brown fat (healthy fat babies are born with), helping to maintain birth weight and keep a warm body temperature. As a result, baby's body does not have to burn its own fat stores to stay warm, resulting in better weight gain. After just one hour of Skin-to-Skin, the infant's digestive system is restored to the right balance for optimal GI function.

Encourages

BREASTFEEDING BEHAVIOR

No.7



Studies have shown that newborns held Skin-to-Skin immediately after birth are twice as likely to breastfeed within the first hour than swaddled newborns. 60 minutes of Skin-to-Skin increases feeding frequency and raises prolactin levels in mom, a hormone critical for maintaining an adequate milk supply.

Synchronizes

HEART RATE & BREATHING

No.8



Simply put, through Kangaroo Care, baby's body learns to self-regulate, resulting in a regular and stable heart beat and breathing pattern. 75% of sporadic breathing and slow heart rate episodes are reduced through Skin-to-Skin.

The *Benefits* of Skin-to-Skin Contact for Mom

Reduces risk of **POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION**

No.1



Kangaroo Care increases the levels of maternal oxytocin, which serves to restore mom's pre-pregnancy hormonal levels and reduce the risk of postpartum Depression.

Speeds **RECOVERY TIME**

No.3



Increased levels of maternal oxytocin are released while mom is holding baby in Kangaroo Care, which in turn...

Lowers **CORTISOL LEVELS** *(stress hormone)*

Increases **PAIN TOLERANCE**

Reduces **BLOOD PRESSURE**

Reduces **POSTPARTUM BLEEDING**

Increases **MILK PRODUCTION**

No.2



Studies have shown that moms who practice Kangaroo Care from the start are more likely to continue exclusive breastfeeding when they bring baby home. The surge in maternal oxytocin and prolactin levels in the early hours after birth appear to have long-term effects in increased milk production. Moms who experience breastfeeding difficulties are likely to see near-immediate improvements by practicing Kangaroo Care for at least 60 minutes per session, 1-2 times a day.

Promotes **PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL BEING**

No.4



Increased levels of oxytocin, a natural hormone that creates a "relaxation and well-being" response, aids mom in responding with nurturing and affectionate behaviors toward her baby. Mom is more sensitive and aware of her baby's needs and feels more confident about her parenting skills.

HOW TO PROPERLY POSITION MOM + BABY *for Skin-to-Skin Contact*



1

GO TOPLESS

Mom should be completely topless (not even a bra), semi-reclined, with baby wearing only diaper.

2

CHEST TO CHEST

Place baby in a vertical position directly against your bare chest, with their shoulders resting on or above your breasts. Cover with blanket to keep warm.

3

LOOK + LISTEN

Baby's head should be turned to one side with their neck straight, not flexed or extended. Make sure baby's nose and mouth remain uncovered and you can see their face at all times.



60 *Uninterrupted* Minutes of Skin-to-Skin Contact

To reap all the benefits, baby needs to be Skin-to-Skin on your chest for an uninterrupted 60 minutes.

While some of the benefits, such as regulation of baby's body temperature and reduction for baby in post-procedural pain occur within minutes of Skin-to-Skin contact, others, such as decreased levels of stress for mom + baby or increase in mom's milk production, take longer.

In addition, development of mature brain function in infants depends on the quality of their sleep cycling. A healthy sleep cycle, between active sleep and quiet sleep, takes a full 60 minutes to complete. Babies who are held Skin-to-Skin for 60 uninterrupted minutes fall asleep more easily and achieve the full sleep cycle required for brain patterning and maturation.

The
NÜROO POCKET

A babywearing shirt designed for Skin-to-Skin Contact.



Why You'll Love It

**FULL COVERAGE
+ MOBILITY**

Gone are the days
of being stuck
in bed.

NO-SLIP POCKET

Keeps baby in
the correct position
for optimal
Skin-to-Skin time.

**MULTI-
FUNCTIONAL**

Use as a maternity
shirt, Skin-to-Skin
carrier and
nursing top.

ADJUSTABLE FIT

Our 'Cross + Hug'
closures provide a
custom fit as your
body changes +
your baby grows.

**COMFORT FOR
TWO**

Made from a
super-soft, breathable,
moisture-wicking
fabric designed to
support baby.

Forget wraps, straps or ties – babywearing has never been easier!

- Designed for pre- and full-term babies • NICU Approved • Adheres to the sling carrier standards, which means it's been tested up to 45 pounds
- Machine washable + dryer safe • Available in XS-2XL

NüRoo products are designed to support
the 4th trimester and foster the bond
between Mom + Baby.



NURSING SCARF



SWADDLER



POCKET

Visit nuroobaby.com for more
research and information on all
of our award-winning products.



www.brownmed.com



Executive:
280 Summer Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02210
P 857-317-3354
F 857-317-3355

Sales:
4435 Main Street, Suite 820
Kansas City, MO 64111
TF 877-853-5518
P 816-581-7001
F 816-581-7005

Manufacturing:
1300 Lundberg Drive West
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
TF 800-843-4395
P 712-336-4395
F 712-336-2874