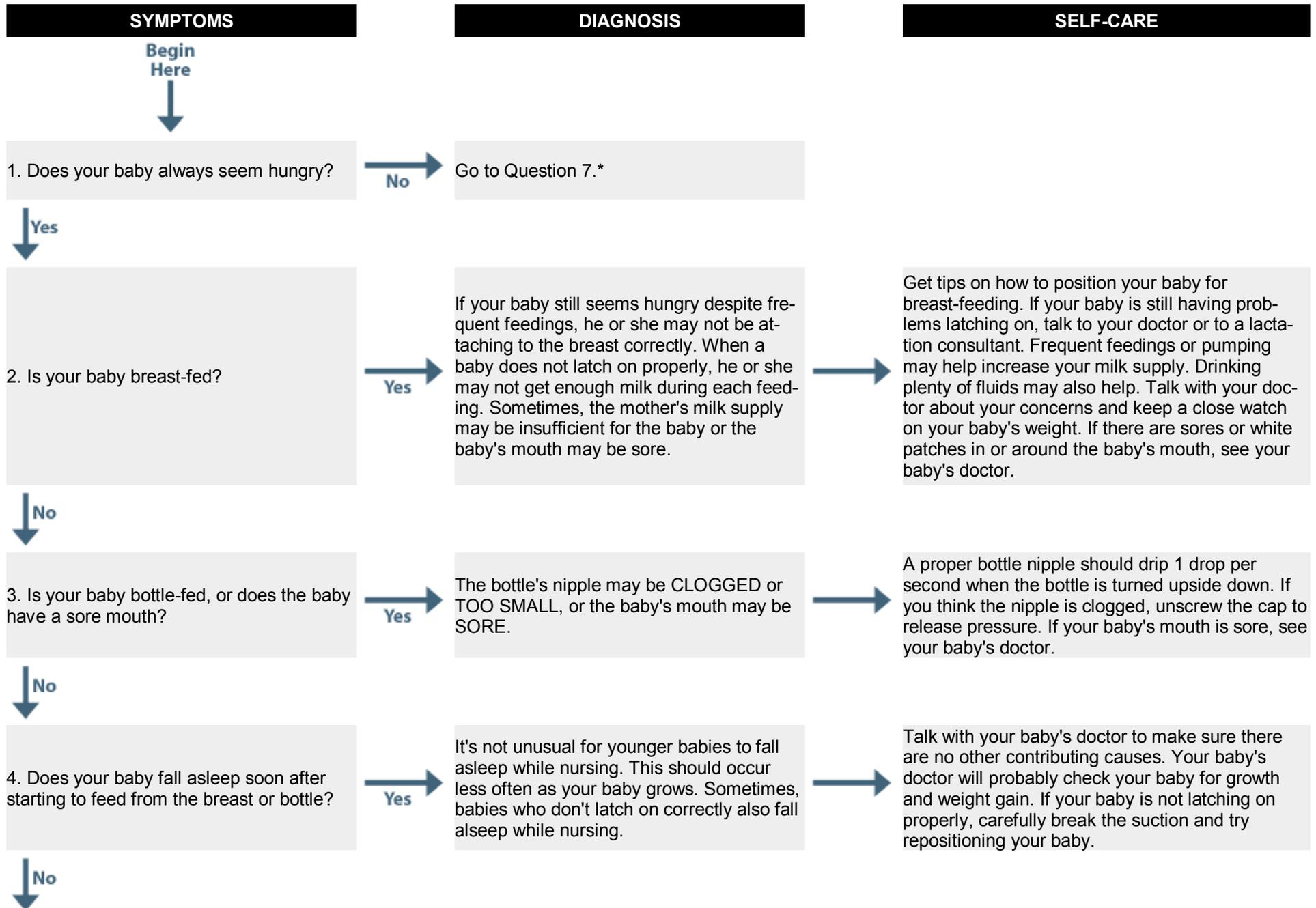


Feeding Problems in Infants and Children

Feeding problems are often frustrating, especially if the baby wakes often or cries during the night. Follow this chart for information and care suggestions.



5. Does your child cry after feeding?

No →

Go to Question 9.**

↓ Yes

6. Is your baby throwing up large amounts of milk with forceful vomiting?

Yes →

Your baby may have [PYLORIC STENOSIS](#), a condition in which the lower part of the stomach becomes enlarged and prevents food from passing to the intestines. This makes the baby throw up.

→

Contact your baby's doctor right away.

↓ No

*7. Does your child seem to have a lot of gas and stomach discomfort?

Yes →

These symptoms may be a sign of [LACTOSE INTOLERANCE](#), the inability to digest lactose. Lactose is a sugar found in milk and other dairy products.

→

Ask your baby's doctor if you should switch to a soy formula. Toddlers may also have soy or rice milk.

↓ No

8. Does your baby cry intensely after meals, sometimes for hours at a time?

Yes →

This may be COLIC.

→

See your baby's doctor. Rubbing your baby's stomach gently, or rocking your baby in a rocking chair or cradle may help relieve the pain.

↓ No

**9. Does your child seem to have little interest in food or have a slow weight gain?

Yes →

This may be from a DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEM.

→

See your baby's doctor.

↓ No

10. Does your child have diarrhea after the feedings?

Yes →

If you are feeding the child formula or cereal, these symptoms may represent an allergy or more severe intolerance to cow's milk ([LACTOSE INTOLERANCE](#)) or wheat ([CELIAC DISEASE](#)).

→

See your baby's doctor. Infants who are lactose intolerant may benefit from switching to a soy formula. Toddlers may also have soy or rice milk. Children who have celiac disease should avoid cereals that contain gluten.

↓ No

For more information, please talk to your doctor. If you think the problem is serious, call your doctor right away.

This tool has been reviewed by doctors and is for general educational purposes only. It is not a substitute for medical advice. The information in this tool should not be relied upon to make decisions about your health. Always consult your family doctor with questions about your individual condition(s) and/or circumstances. Source: American Academy of Family Physicians. Family Health & Medical Guide. Dallas: Word Publishing; 1996.