

## Useful References Evaluation and Assessment of Very Young Infants

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1. Jane Case-Smith, Linda Butcher, Diane Reed. 1998. **Parents' Report of Sensory Responsiveness and Temperament in Preterm Infants.** *American Journal of Occupational Therapy.*  
This study supports the findings of others that preterm infants have mild problems in sensory responsiveness and temperament. Correlational results do not support a definitive relationship between parents' reports of their infants' sensory responsiveness and developmental function. It is a good look at what is considered to be within normal limits for some sensory responsiveness and temperament characteristics, and may help some staff to better distinguish between a problem that needs intervention and something that is within normal limits.
2. Rosario Montiroso, Alberto Del Prete, Roberto Bellù, Ed Tronick, PhD, and Renato Borgatti. 2011. **Level of NICU Quality of Developmental Care and Neurobehavioral Performance in Very Preterm Infants;** *Pediatrics*  
Study indicated that the conditions of a NICU affect the baby's overall sensory development. While not related directly to evaluation and assessment, this article raises awareness about how a premature child may be affected by the conditions in the NICU. The article supports increases child find and public awareness directed at NICUs.
3. Murray Braun and Marjorie Palmer, 1985. **A Pilot Study of Oral Motor Dysfunction in At-Risk Infants.** *Physical and Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics.*  
Purpose of study was to develop an oral motor assessment tool for neonates. This article is old and it deals with the scholarly analysis of the tool. It is, however, useful because the actual tool is included, and the questions on the tool could be useful for teams during assessment. Also, there is good discussion of some of the terms associated with oral motor dysfunction in infants.
4. Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Task Force, 2000. **Specialized Knowledge and Skills for Occupational Therapy Practice in the NICU** *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*  
This article presents information on level of skill necessary for OT's working in NICU. There is information included that could also be useful for motor therapists when evaluating very young infants.

5. Joyce S. Salls, Lyn N. Silverman, Carolyn M. Gatty. 2002. **The Relationship of Infant Sleep and Play Positioning to Motor Milestone Achievement**

Study concluded that since the Back to Sleep initiative in 1994, babies who do not spend time in prone are reaching milestones later or in different manner than they did previous to the initiative. Information regarding infants' sleep and awake positioning may be important to therapists when evaluating gross motor development, because developmental norms established before "back to sleep" may not be accurate.