

March 1, 2007

## Infant Visual Perception

This behavior is normal for the two-week old newborn. When a newborn is born the focusing of the lens is poor. The reason why the newborn's vision is so poor is because of the underdeveloped state of their foveas. This is the area of the retina which is where the highest concentration of color cells is. That is how an infant gets clear vision. Newborns lack this. It doesn't matter what the distance of the object is to the infant's eye, it will still be unclear to them. Newborns can visually track moving objects, but their own eyes can't really move in harmony. Convergence and coordination of both eyes will improve in the first months. In two-week year old babies they really can't grasp the whole face and understand every area of the face. They do like to look at faces when people's eyes are open. Within the first twelve to thirty-six hours the newborn prefers to look at their mother. The infant and mother have this special bond, in which the newborn knows who their mother is. Infants also attract to areas of higher contrast by what is reflected by an outline. This can explain why the two-week old is looking at his mother chin and hair. Infants like to look at moving stimulus rather than stationary objects. The mother's hair can move and her chin moves when she talks, so the baby could be attracted to that. That can be another reason for looking at her chin and hair. Many infants during the first six weeks of life do not show systematic visual attention to stimulus contours, this is because of the neurological maturity difference at birth.

So what can the mother expect in the future and when?

different aspects  
to what do these  
mean for  
infants?  
specific

explain what  
these  
are

good  
ideas  
here