

# Get to Know Your Newborn

Each baby is unique. Still, you can expect some common newborn issues.

- **Your baby's face and head may not look – so perfect.** He may have a misshapen head, a few small bruises or swollen eyes. This is a result of your baby passing through the birth canal. He will look better soon.
- Notice the soft spot on top of your baby's head. It is called a fontanel, a thick membrane that covers separated skull bones. It is OK to *gently* touch this area. These bones close between 9 – 18 months.
- Some babies have lots of hair. Others have no hair. It is all normal. Most newborn hair falls out as baby grows new hair.
- Your baby may have a yellow discharge from his eyes. Most babies receive antibiotic drops to their eyes after birth. This may cause a little irritation. The discharge will disappear after a day or two.
- Your baby may sneeze often. After birth, mucous fills her tiny nose. Sneezing helps her clear her nose. It is normal – not always a sign of a cold. If she develops a thick, yellow mucous, call her doctor for advice.
- Your baby's ears bend easily. If his ear looks folded, do not worry. In time, it should look more normal and feel firmer.
- You might see a small blister on your baby's lips. It is from sucking her fingers in the womb. The blister will eventually go away.
- Newborn babies often develop rashes. Mom's hormones can cause small white pimples on the face. You may also notice a red rash with yellow-white centers – like flea bites. Both rashes go away without treatment.
- It is normal for the skin on baby's hands and feet to flake and peel. This flaking goes away in 1 – 2 weeks. You *do not* need to pull or scrub the peeling skin.
- Your baby may have swollen genitals and breasts for a few days after birth. Girls may also have a slightly bloody vaginal discharge. Mom's hormones are the cause. It will not last long.



*Brought to you by Parent Help Line at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital  
to help keep kids safe, healthy and happy.*



**Call the Parent Help Line. Help is just a phone call away.**

1-217-544-5808 or 1-888-727-5889  
10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 7 days a week  
[www.parenthelpline.org](http://www.parenthelpline.org)

Revised 2017

 **Children's**  
HSHS St. John's Hospital