You will probably also have infants who, at times need to be fed small amounts of milk or medication repeatedly for short periods of time. During this time the infant may want to satisfy his natural suckling instinct or need help and practice for breastfeeding in the future.

For infants that require small supplements, or medication, and also for suckling training:

**FingerFeeder**

With the FingerFeeder it is possible to feed small amounts of milk or medication during the hospital stay. The FingerFeeder is attached to a syringe. Its made of soft silicone, which is gentle in the infant’s mouth. By suckling on the finger during feeding with the FingerFeeder, the infants can satisfy their natural need to suckle, which helps them to be satisfied and settled.
Every drop of human milk counts especially for vulnerable infants

Medela enables you to help those infants who need a little extra support when it comes to feeding.

Do you know how?
How can you benefit from Medela’s Special Feeding Device range?

We know that it can sometimes be a challenge for weak or premature infants to feed at the breast. This may be because their ability to create vacuum is just not good enough or because they cannot latch on for long enough, as they tire very easily. In other cases the infant may be healthy, but the mother does not provide enough milk for one feed, has adopted a baby or a medical condition and is therefore unable to breastfeed. Without a suitable device, these infants cannot enjoy the warm feeling and closeness to their mother during breastfeeding and the feeding must often be done by the hospital’s staff.

To administer supplemental nutrition to infants while being breastfed:

Supplemental Nursing System (SNS)

The Supplemental Nursing System is a unique product that enables mothers to breastfeed, when they would otherwise be unable to do so. The Supplemental Nursing System is hung around the neck and thin tubes are placed alongside the nipple. These tubes are not felt by the infant during feeding. In cases in which infants have weak suction or cannot maintain vacuum long enough, or if mothers have poor milk supply, the Supplemental Nursing System can be used to supplement feeding. It is also possible to use this system to feed adopted infants. Mothers can use the system to feed either their own expressed milk, milk from a milkbank or artificial supplements. In addition, the infant can train to suckle properly and milk production can be stimulated. For many mothers it may be possible to resume breastfeeding at a later date.

With the Supplemental Nursing System more infants are able to breastfeed, which maintains the unique contact between mother and child and helps them to be satisfied and settled. You are released from feeding duties and can concentrate on other important tasks.
Some of the little patients in your hospital have a cleft lip/palate, neurological disorders or are weak or premature. These newborns struggle to feed at the breast or with regular teats. Feeding them can be very time consuming and sometimes valuable human milk is lost. Furthermore, the amount of milk fed to the newborn is often difficult to determine. In many cases the infants are too weak to efficiently feed orally and therefore fail to gain adequate weight. As a result they may require enteral feeding, which might extend the length of their stay in hospital.

For infants with cleft lip/palate and newborns with neurological disorders:

**SpecialNeeds®-Feeder**

With the SpecialNeeds-Feeder it is possible to feed infants with cleft lip/palate more easily, without spillage and in less time. The one-way valve membrane between bottle and teat allows the teat to be filled with milk before the feed so that no air can enter. Furthermore, the SpecialNeeds-Feeder has a slit valve on the tip of its teat to easily regulate the milk flow by changing the position of the teat in the infant’s mouth. The line mark on the teat helps to find the right position. The slit valve makes the teat sensitive to even the smallest feeding effort by the infant. Moreover, you are able to support this suckling behaviour by squeezing the teat, which ensures adequate milk intake.

In addition smaller teats are available – the Mini-SpecialNeeds Teats. Simply replace the standard with the Mini-SpecialNeeds Teat.

For short-term feeding of weak or premature newborns:

**SoftCup™-Advanced Cup Feeder**

Feeding with the SoftCup is the easiest way of cup feeding. Its soft, spoon-shaped mouthpiece lies gently on the infant’s lower lip, allowing a better dosage to be administered with less spillage. Additionally, this cup comes with an 80 ml graduated container. Having the entire milk amount in the container prevents spillage and saves time. The graduation allows you to track more easily the amount of milk taken, allowing you to be sure that the infant has fed sufficiently. Because of a one way valve membrane between the container and the mouthpiece, the milk flow can easily be regulated by squeezing the chambers of the mouthpiece.

**Baby Cup**

A low-cost alternative for the short term feeding of smaller milk amounts, small supplements, or medication is the Baby Cup. Its graduation, as well as its slanted scale, allows you to track intake.

With the SpecialNeeds-Feeder, the SoftCup-Advanced Cup Feeder and the Baby Cup the infants will be satisfied, more settled and gain sufficient weight. Enteral feeding might not be necessary, and with maintenance of weight an earlier discharge from hospital can be possible.