

*Assessment Tool for Lingual Frenulum Function (ATLFF)*

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Mothers name: \_\_\_\_\_

Baby's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Baby's age: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of assessment: \_\_\_\_\_

**FUNCTION ITEMS**

**Lateralization**

- 2 Complete
- 1 Body of tongue but not tongue tip
- 0 None

**Lift of tongue**

- 2 Tip to mid-mouth
- 1 Only edges to mid mouth
- 0 Tip stays at alveolar ridge **OR** tip rises only to mid-mouth with jaw closure **AND/OR** mid-tongue dimples

**Extension of tongue**

- 2 Tip over lower lip
- 1 Tip over lower gum only
- 0 Neither of the above **OR** anterior or mid-tongue humps and/or dimples

**Spread of anterior tongue**

- 2 Complete
- 1 Moderate **OR** partial
- 0 Little **OR** none

**Cupping of tongue**

- 2 Entire edge, firm cup
- 1 Side edges only, moderate cup
- 0 Poor **OR** no cup

**Peristalsis (progressive contraction)**

- 2 Complete anterior to posterior (originates at tip)
- 1 Partial: originating posterior to tip
- 0 None **OR** Reverse peristalsis

**Snap back**

- 2 None
- 1 Periodic
- 0 Frequent **OR** with each suck

**APPEARANCE ITEMS**

**Appearance of tongue when lifted**

- 2 Round **OR** square
- 1 Slight cleft in tip apparent
- 0 Heart shaped

**Length of lingual frenulum when tongue lifted**

- 2 More than 1 cm **OR** absent frenulum
- 1 1 cm
- 0 Less than 1 cm

**Attachment of lingual frenulum to inferior alveolar ridge**

- 2 Attached to floor of mouth **OR** well below ridge
- 1 Attached just below ridge
- 0 Attached to ridge

**Elasticity of lingual frenulum**

- 2 Very elastic (excellent)
- 1 Moderately elastic
- 0 Little **OR** no elasticity

**Attachment of lingual frenulum to tongue**

- 2 Posterior to tip
- 1 At tip
- 0 Notched **OR** under the mucosa at the tongue base

**SCORING**

Function Item score: \_\_\_\_\_

Combined Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Appearance Item score: \_\_\_\_\_

**Treatment Recommendations Based on Scoring**

14 = Perfect Function score regardless of Appearance Item score. Surgical treatment not recommended.

11 = Acceptable Function score only if Appearance Item score is 10.

<11 = Function Score indicates function impaired. Frenotomy should be considered if management fails. Frenotomy necessary if Appearance Item score is < 8.