

Infant Developmental Aspects of AirNettress
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Since the observation in 1992 that sudden infant death syndrome (SID) may be associated with infants sleeping face down (prone), parents have been urged to put their infants on their back (supine) while sleeping. Some researchers expressed concerns that the supine sleeping position seemed to delay the motor development of the infants

The prone position is of particular importance in the development of head control and anti gravity extension. Prone extension is essential for the development of stability in various weight-bearing positions such as prone-on hands, on all fours and sitting. Hence, lack of experience in the prone position may have a detrimental effect on the motor development of the infants. Prone positioning is especially important for preterm infant development. Studies have shown that infant motor development is accelerated in premature infants placed in the prone position for significant time periods and the opposite is true for premature babies placed in the supine position.

I examined AirNettress mattresses, manufactured by The Child Development Company, Israel. With AirNettress' taut, porous surface the infant can be placed face down for long periods of time. This is essential for the infant's motor development, in term healthy infants, but especially in premature infants with or without neurological impairment.

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