NTrainer System® in use at Lancaster Hospital

Premature babies are born too young to know how to eat: This tool teaches them how

Paxtyn Cox came into this world at 28 weeks, weighing less than two pounds and tiny enough to fit into her father’s hand.

While still in the hospital, she had an arsenal of tools that helped her get strong enough to leave and go to her home in Reinholds. There was a ventilator, a CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machine, oxygen and a feeding tube. When the time was right, her mother, Brea Cox, used a new tool to teach her essential skills: sucking and eating.

Now 5 months old, baby Paxtyn is smiling, cooing and sitting up on her own. She’s grown big enough to fit into a car seat and parents Brea and Cory Cox are expecting her to soon be removed from a heart monitor.

This new tool, called the NTrainer, helps the tiniest patients learn how to balance breathing, sucking and swallowing at the same time.

Emily Sahrhage uses the NTrainer with her baby, Anna Joy Sahrhage. Anna Joy was born 26 weeks into Emily’s pregnancy. Emily’s using the NTrainer to help teach Anna how to suck, breathe and swallow at the same time.

DAN MARSCHKA Staff Photographer