The baby who won’t latch can’t latch, but sometimes the problems are in their head

Some good rules for helping mothers:
  #1 Feed the baby, #2 The mother is right, #3 It’s her baby, #4 Nobody knows everything, #5 There is another way
  I would add: Expect success; expecting success helps lead to success

A few physical causes of non-latching:
  engorgement – try Reverse Pressure Softening to push fluids back in the breast
  a bad fit between mouth and nipple
  mouth issues – some good websites are tongue-tie.net (by a book author), tonguetie.net (by a group of LCs and dentists), brianpalmerdds.com (by a dentist), kiddsteeth.com/articles/breastfeedingdrkotlowtx.pdf
  Don’t know what’s going on? Try taking pictures to share with someone who knows more

A few “emotional” causes of non-latching:
  deep suctioning, head-pushing, too much/too little milk, poor breast offering, mother insisting
  Think horses, not zebras: sometimes there really isn’t a problem
  Think instincts: sometimes a baby just needs to lead, or a mother needs to use her own instincts
     Biological Nurturing, nursing baby in his sleep, standing to feed can all help
  Think bait and switch: some babies can be fooled by going quickly from bottle to breast
  Think normalizing: some babies can concentrate on eating once their environment is made more normal
     No mittens or swaddling
     More skin or – if they’re accustomed to clothes – light clothing
     Lots of carrying, positional stability, access to breast day and night (within mom’s comfort)
     Baby leads the way
     Facilitate without interfering (Biological Nurturing makes this easier)
  Think hands-off if there have been significant insults to baby
     For instance, baby on pillow to avoid touch, nipple shield to keep nipple from retreating
     Gradually make hold closer as baby can tolerate
  Think baby steps: if we can get a tiger to jump through a flaming hoop, of course we can get a baby to breastfeed! We need more patience, more tools, more creativity.
     Bottle to nipple shield to breast – easy steps if we have a nipple shield that fits a bottle
     Take it slow, keep it fun
     Breastfeeding devices are tools if they help, gadgets if they don’t; most are both. We need more tools.
     Nipple shield to breast with older baby – think games (“Suck on my nose? That’s so silly!”)
     “dissolving” nipple shield, or one that can be slid from mouth, is needed tool
  Think patience and impulse: babies can get there; role models help their mothers
  Think wall-breaking: sometimes we need to push just a bit
  Think reasonably: the gray area is large!
     Have realistic optimism, support for the mom, places you can go for help
  Think outside the box: your “crazy idea” may be just what’s needed
     if not with this mother, then sometime
     It’s all worth it, even when breastfeeding doesn’t work out:
        Mother gains a stronger sense of self and child
        Decision is made from a position of strength, not as a helpless response to fate
  Think small, think positive. After all, we can get tigers to jump through hoops.