

Make it Work

It's Worth It!

Tips for Starting your Breastfed Baby in Child Care • A Toolkit for Families



Returning to work or school after having a baby is often a difficult time for any parent or caregiver. By having a Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care provider, you know you and your baby will be supported.

Talk with your child care provider frequently about your baby, and share your needs and wants for your baby's care. Ask to complete a written feeding plan and remember to review and update it regularly.

The following pages provide some tips to help prepare you for starting your baby in child care.

Remember, breasts make milk in response to your baby nursing. The more milk your baby and pump take, the more your body will make!

The Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program is a nutrition program that provides free healthy food, breastfeeding support, and other services to Connecticut families who qualify.

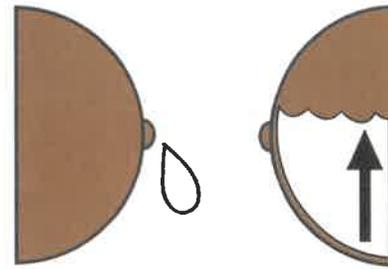
WIC is for pregnant or breastfeeding women and children younger than 5 years old. If you get TANF, SNAP or Medicaid, you are automatically eligible for WIC.



To find a local WIC clinic visit:
<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/WIC/WIC>.

Before Returning to Work or School

- Practice pumping your breasts at least 2 weeks before starting child care. Pump after the morning feeding or at other times when your breasts feel fuller.



- Pumping takes practice. Do not be surprised or worried if you only get a little the first few times. Moms typically make ½ to 1 ounce of breast milk per hour.
- Consider using breast massage techniques to improve your pumping sessions. For information and videos visit: <https://breastfeedingusa.org/content/article/pump-more-milk-use-hands-pumping>.
- Ask a lactation consultant, WIC office staff, or healthcare provider for advice or tips on pumping and keeping an adequate milk supply.
- When away from your baby, pump as often as your baby would usually nurse (or at least every 3 to 4 hours) to maintain your supply.

* Preparing Your Baby for a Bottle

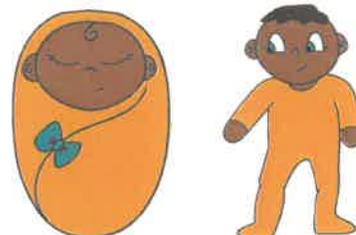
Many breastfed babies may not be willing to eat from a bottle at first. Try to give your baby a bottle regularly for at least 2 weeks before your baby begins child care. Some tips to try:



- Have someone else feed your baby from a bottle. Some babies associate mom with the pleasure of nursing. Your baby may be more willing to take a bottle if you are not in the room.
- Offer a bottle when your baby is relaxed and not quite ready for a feeding. Do not offer a bottle when your baby is very hungry or upset.
- Only put a small amount of breast milk (1 to 3 ounces) in the bottle to avoid wasting milk if your baby refuses.
- Try warming the bottle's nipple under warm running water to bring it to near body temperature.
- Do not force the bottle into your baby's mouth. Tickle your baby's mouth gently with the bottle nipple and let your baby draw the nipple into his or her mouth.
- No matter the age of your baby, use slow flow or newborn (size 0) bottle nipples to better copy the flow of milk from human nipples.
- Offer a bottle in different feeding positions, especially those different from your usual nursing positions. Try giving a bottle while moving rhythmically – walking, rocking, or swaying.
- If your baby refuses, try again later. Try different bottle nipple types and shapes to find one your baby likes. Try different temperatures of the breast milk.
- Let baby control the feeding pace – allow baby to take breaks when needed. Babies often take 10-20 minutes or even longer to breastfeed and take natural pauses.
- Encourage pauses often – listen to baby and if baby does not take breaks, lower the bottle after a few sucks and wait for baby to begin sucking again before tilting the bottle back up. You can watch an example of paced bottle feeding at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoBVtE6S1dk>.
- Watch for fullness cues – if baby is giving cues of being done, even if baby has not finished all the milk in the bottle, do not try and continue to feed. You can watch an example of infant fullness cues at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ALUXZf8q3o>.

* Growth Spurts

Most babies' appetites get bigger around the same time they grow. Every baby is different, but typical growth spurts often occur at:



During growth spurts, your baby's schedule may change and they may eat and sleep more than usual.

Babies need more food as they grow and you may not have enough milk at first.

Nurse and pump more often during these spurts and your milk supply will likely get larger in response within 3 to 4 days.

Giving formula during a growth spurt will send a message to your body not to make more milk and will not help breastfeeding.

Continue to breastfeed directly at the breast whenever you are with your baby. Direct breastfeeding may provide additional health benefits for your baby and will help maintain your milk supply.



* How Much Breast Milk Should I Give My Provider?

Exclusively breastfed babies between 1 and 6 months old eat an average of 25 ounces of breast milk each day. However, every baby is different and eats different amounts.

To estimate the amount of breast milk your child care provider may need each day:

- Estimate the number of times your baby usually nurses each day (in 24 hours).
- Divide 25 ounces by the number of nursings or feedings.

Example: If your baby usually nurses around 8 times a day, you can guess your baby may need around 3 ounces of breast milk at each feeding ($25 \div 8 = 3.1$).

Babies younger than 1 month old and babies older than 6 months who eat more solid foods may eat less breast milk.



* The Older Baby

Medical experts agree it is best to wait until your baby is around 6 months old before offering any food other than breast milk. This includes not adding cereal to bottles.

Offering cereal or formula does not help a baby sleep through the night. Research shows starting solid foods early can cause allergies to develop, lower your milk production, and may lead to early weaning.

Cow's milk should not be given to babies under 1 year of age because it is difficult to digest and is hard on a baby's organs.

Many women choose to breastfeed beyond 12 months. Health experts encourage longer breastfeeding for more health benefits for both you and your baby.



* Nursing strikes

A nursing strike is when a breastfed baby suddenly refuses the breast. This is normal for some babies.

During a nursing strike a baby may cry, arch, or pull away from the breast and will usually accept bottles with no problem.

A nursing strike can cause a decrease in your milk supply, so it is important for you to continue to offer your breasts to your baby often and pump to maintain your milk supply.

Try nursing when your baby is calm and not upset. Increase your skin to skin contact with your baby. Some moms find breastfeeding in the dark when baby is sleepy to be helpful. Consider contacting a lactation consultant for support. See page 5 for contact information.

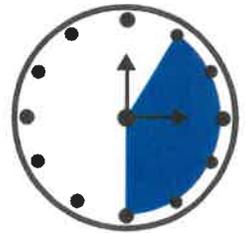


* Reverse Cycling

Reverse cycling is when a baby nurses frequently at night and eats less often during the day.

This may occur with babies just starting out on a bottle. Give your provider small amounts of milk per bottle so there is less waste. Be patient and this phase will pass.

For tips on how to handle reverse cycling, see <http://kellymom.com/bf/normal/reverse-cycling/>.



Make it Work



It's Worth It!

WORK OR SCHOOL - Plan for your breastfeeding success and talk about your pumping needs*
 Knowledge + Support + Confidence = Success

Before Baby

- Talk to human resources, supervisor or student services about your pumping plans.
- If your job or school has a breastfeeding room, visit the area & ask how to use it.
- Find out how to get a pump (insurance or buy your own).
- Talk to different childcare providers before making a choice.

What to Pack

Be sure to wash/clean hands prior to pumping. It is recommended to clean pump parts after each use. Sanitize once a day.

Need to have:

- Breast pump
- Milk storage bags/bottles
- Pen to label pumped milk or/labels for milk containers
- Icepacks and insulated bag†
- Soap to clean breast pump (you can also use breast pump wipes or microwaveable breast pump bags)

Nice to have:

- Healthy snack & water
- An extra set of breast pads, if you use them
- Spare pump parts or batteries in case of power outage

†Check if there is a refrigerator you can use.

Before You Go Back

- Set up a pumping schedule with supervisor or teachers.
- Offer a bottle once or twice a day a few weeks before you return to work or school.
- Talk with your childcare providers about feeding your pumped milk to your baby.
 - To Defrost milk: Thaw in fridge or place under cool running water.
 - To Warm Up milk: Place bag or bottle in a bowl with warm tap water or hold bag or bottle under cool running water, raising temp slowly.

Resources

- For employees returning to work
www.breastfeedingct.org/makeitwork
- Your rights & the law
www.breastfeedingct.org/laws
- Find lactation professionals near you, if you need one!
www.zipmilk.org
- What to ask childcare providers
www.breastfeedingct.org/childcare
- Tips to maintain your milk supply
www.breastfeedingct.org/supply
- How to hand express milk
www.breastfeedingct.org/tips
- List 2 people that will support my breastfeeding goals

Human Milk Storage Guidelines**

	Countertop or table	Refrigerator	Freezer with separate door	Deep Freezer
Storage Temperatures	Up to 77° F (25° C)	At or below 40° F (4° C)	At or below 0° F (-18° C)	At or below -4° F (-20° C)
Freshly Pumped/ Expressed Human Milk	Up to 4 hours	Up to 4 days	Up to 6 months	Up to 12 months
Thawed Human Milk	1-2 hours	Up to 1 day (24 hours)	Never refreeze thawed human milk	

**These guidelines are for healthy full-term babies and may vary for premature or sick babies. Check with your health care provider. Guidelines are for home use only and not for hospital use.

*These tips are for healthy, full-term infants. If you are pumping for medical reasons, talk to your health care provider for more information.



Produced in part with funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through Cooperative Agreement DP13-1305. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the CDC.