



3 Storage/Handling/Feeding

Implement Proper Storage, Handling, and Feeding of Breast Milk

During training, childcare providers learn the basics of how to properly store, handle, and feed breast milk. Assist childcare providers in creating a plan to put their knowledge into action.

Provide refrigeration and freezer space for storage of breast milk.

Ensure childcare providers implement proper storage.

- **Determine a space to store breast milk.** Breast milk can be stored in refrigerators and freezers appropriate for food storage along with any other foods and beverages.
- **Organize the storage space.** Designate a space in the refrigerator where families can leave their breast milk.

Breastfeeding families are instructed on how to properly label and store breast milk.

To guarantee proper handling, encourage childcare providers to ensure a safe storage environment and ask families to label milk properly.

- **Discuss proper labeling of breast milk with families.** Ask families to label bottles or bags of breast milk with the infant's name, date, and time the milk was expressed.
- **Follow storage guidelines.** Childcare providers are encouraged to utilize conservative storage guidelines, such as those from the [Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#). See *Table 2* for the recommended storage guidelines per CACFP, as of 2018. In addition, encourage childcare providers to check with local licensing agencies or other affiliated programs, as they may also have storage guidelines.

Table 2 CACFP Storage Guidelines

	Temperature	Guidelines
Refrigerator	39°F (3.9°C) or below	Freshly expressed breast milk may be refrigerated for up to 72 hours. Return unused refrigerated breast milk to family after 72 hours.
Freezer	0°F or below	Frozen breast milk should be provided in single-use plastic bags. Frozen breast milk may be stored for up to three months. Once thawed, use within 24 hours.

An individual feeding plan exists for every infant under 18 months.

Infant feeding plans are an important communication and planning tool. Feeding plans guarantee that the childcare provider is following the families' preferred feeding style.

- **Record feeding patterns.** Keep records of the time and amount baby drinks. Share the feeding patterns with families.
- **Update feeding plans.** Feeding plans should be updated every three months or as feeding patterns change, such as with the introduction of solids.
- **Utilize a standard form.** Utilize an infant feeding plan form such as the [BFSD Infant Feeding Plan](#).

BREASTFEEDING-FRIENDLY FEEDING STRATEGIES

- **Color code bottles.** Consider marking each infant's bottle with a different piece of colored tape. That way, a baby's bottle is quickly identified.
- **Post infant feeding plans.** Post the infant feeding plans close to the kitchen, making paperwork an easy process after feeding.
- **Make rotating bottles easy.** Use small plastic containers in the refrigerator to separate each baby's bottles.

Breast Milk Storage



Figure 3: Breast Milk Storage in a Family Childcare Home

Figure 3 highlights breast milk storage in a family childcare home. A section of the standard refrigerator is designated to store breast milk. It is permitted to store breast milk in a home refrigerator alongside other food and drinks. Breast milk is being stored in bottles and bags and organized in trays clearly labeled with the child's name. The bottles and bags are also labeled with each child's name and date milk was expressed. The container on the far left has several bags of milk behind it, emphasizing that the milk in the bottle should be utilized first.



Figure 4: Breast Milk Storage in a Childcare Center

Figure 4 highlights a childcare center that utilizes plastic trays to separate and organize breast milk and solids for each child. Breast milk can be stored safely alongside other food items. The trays are labeled with each child's name and the bottles are labeled with both the child's name and the date the milk was expressed. Breast milk can be offered in a bottle or a sippy cup for older infants.

Guidelines for Storing Breast Milk



When milk arrives...

Refrigerate immediately.



Refrigerated milk

Store at \leq _____ °F
up to _____ hours.



Frozen milk

Store in freezer of two-door fridge at
 \leq _____ °F for up to _____ months.



Thawed milk

Store in fridge up to _____ hours.
Do NOT refreeze breast milk.



After a feeding...

Throw out any
unused milk.



First 5
San Diego



Reglas para Almacenar la Leche Materna



Cuando reciba la leche materna...
Refrigérela inmediatamente.



La leche refrigerada
Se debe almacenar a \leq ____ °F
Hasta ____ horas.



Leche congelada
Almacene en el congelador de un refrigerador de dos puertas a \leq ____ °F hasta ____ meses.



Leche descongelada
Almacene en el refrigerador hasta ____ horas.
NO vuelva a congelar la leche.



Después de darle al bebé la leche materna...
Tire la leche que no se utilizó.



Infant Feeding Plan - English

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Sample Infant Feeding Plan



The information you provide below will help us to do our very best to respect your feeding practices and help your baby grow and thrive.

This form must be filled out for all children under 18 months old.

Child's name: _____ Birthday: _____
mm / dd / yyyy

Parent/Guardian's name(s): _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT

Did you receive a copy of our Breastfeeding-Friendly Policy? Yes No

At home my baby drinks (Check all that apply):

Breast milk from: Mother Bottle Cup Other _____

Formula from: Bottle Cup Other _____

Cow's milk from: Bottle Cup Other _____

Additional details:

How does your child show you that s/he is hungry?

How often does your child usually feed?

How much does your child usually drink at each feeding (ounces)?

Has your child started eating solid foods? Yes No
If yes, what foods is s/he eating:

How often is your child eating solid foods? How much?



This information has been adapted from the "Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care Initiative" of the Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute/UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Infant Feeding Plan - English

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Child's name: _____ Birthday: _____
mm / dd / yyyy

I want my child to be fed the following foods while in your care:

	Frequency of	Approximate amount per	Will you bring from home? (must be labeled)	Details about feeding
Mother's Milk				
Formula				
Cow's milk				
Cereal				
Baby Food				
Table Food				
Other (describe)				

I plan to come to nurse my baby at the following time(s): _____

My usual pick-up time will be: _____

If my baby is crying or seems hungry shortly before my usual arrival time, I would like staff to do the following:
 You may choose more than one.

- hold my baby
 use the teething toy I provide
 use the pacifier I provide
 rock my baby
 give a bottle of my expressed milk
 other Specify: _____

I would like you to take this action _____ minutes before my arrival time.

We have discussed the above plan, and made any needed changes or clarifications.

Today's date: _____

Teacher Signature: _____ Parent Signature _____

Date	Change to Feeding Plan (must be recorded as feeding habits change)	Parent Initials	Teacher Initials

*** Any changes must be noted above and initialed by both the teacher and the parent.**



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Infant Feeding Plan - Spanish

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Muestra del Plan para la Alimentación de Niños



Alimentar a su bebé adecuadamente es una de las responsabilidades más importantes para quienes estamos al cuidado de sus hijos. La información que usted nos comparta nos ayudará para hacer todo lo posible para continuar hábitos saludables en la alimentación de su bebé para su crecimiento y madurez.

Este plan debe ser detallado para todos los niños menores de 18 meses de edad.

Nombre de bebé: _____ Fecha de nacimiento: _____
m m / d d / a a a a

Nombre del padre/madre/guardián: _____

COMPLETADO POR LOS PADRES

¿Recibió una copia de nuestra póliza de lactancia? Si No

En mi casa, ¿cómo toma la leche su bebé? (marque todas las respuestas apropiadas):

La leche materna la toma: Seno materno En biberón En vaso Otra forma _____

Explicaciones /Detalles adicionales:

La leche de fórmula la toma: En biberón En vaso Otra forma _____

Leche de vaca: En biberón En vaso Otra forma _____

Otro líquido: _____ En biberón En vaso Otra forma _____

¿Cómo muestra su bebé cuando tiene hambre?

¿Qué tan seguido come su bebé?

¿Cuál es la frecuencia y la cantidad de leche/formula que toma su bebé normalmente cada vez que come?

¿Ha empezado su bebé a comer alimentos sólidos? ¿Qué comidas está comiendo?

¿Cuál es la frecuencia y cantidad que su bebé está comiendo alimentos sólidos, y en qué cantidad?



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Infant Feeding Plan - Spanish

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Nombre del niño: _____

Fecha de nacimiento: _____
mm / dd / aaaa

Cuéntenos acerca de la alimentación de su bebé en nuestro sitio

Quiero que mi hijo/ a sea alimentado con los siguientes alimentos mientras este bajo su cuidado:

	Frecuencia de alimentación	Cantidad aproximada por alimentación	¿Lo traerá de casa? (Debe tener etiqueta y fecha)	Instrucciones sobre la alimentación
Leche materna				
Leche de formula				
Leche de vaca				
Cereal				
Comida de bebé				
Solidos				
Otro				

Pienso regresar a este sitio para darle pecho a mí bebe a estas horas: _____

La hora que vengo por mi niño normalmente es: _____

Si mi bebe está llorando o parece hambriento poco antes de mi hora de llegada habitual, quisiera que el personal hiciera lo siguiente: (puede marcar más de uno)

Sostener al bebé
 usar el juguete para comecón en los dientes
 usar el chupón que le di
 Mecer mi bebé
 dar una de las botellas con mi leche materna
 Especifique otra estrategia/actividad: _____

Quisiera que tomara esta acción _____ minutos antes de mi hora de llegada, si está llorando o parece hambriento

Hemos repasado el plan juntos y hemos hecho los cambios o aclaraciones necesarios.

Fecha de hoy: _____

Firma de proveedora: _____ Firma del padre/madre: _____

Fecha	Cambios hechos en el plan de alimentación (deben ser documentados cada vez que hay cambio)	Iniciales de mamá/papá	Iniciales de proveedora

*** Cualquier cambio debe ser escrito arriba y agregue las iniciales de la proveedora, mamá/papá**



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