

Sample Child Care Center Breastfeeding Policy

The ABC Child Care Center is committed to providing ongoing support to breastfeeding mothers. Well-defined research has documented a multitude of health benefits to both the mother and infant. The ABC Child Care Center subscribes to the following policy:

Breastfeeding mothers shall be provided a place to breastfeed or express their milk.

Breastfeeding mothers, including employees, shall be provided a private and sanitary place to breastfeed their babies or express milk. This area has an electric outlet, comfortable chair, and nearby access to running water. Mothers are also welcome to breastfeed in front of others if they wish.

A refrigerator will be made available for storage of expressed breast milk.

Breastfeeding mothers and employees may store their expressed breast milk in the center refrigerator. Mothers should provide their own containers, clearly labeled with name and date.

Sensitivity will be shown to breastfeeding mothers and their babies.

The center is committed to providing ongoing support to breastfeeding mothers, including providing an opportunity to breastfeed their baby in the morning and evening, and holding off giving a bottle, if possible, when mom is due to arrive. Infant formula and solid foods will not be provided unless requested by the mother. All babies, regardless of what they are fed (breast milk or formula), will be held closely when feeding. Bottles will never be “propped” in an infant’s mouth.

Staff shall be trained in handling breast milk.

All center staff will be trained in the proper storage and handling of breast milk, as well as ways to support breastfeeding mothers. The center will follow human milk storage guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to avoid waste and prevent food borne illness. Special precautions are not required in handling breast milk.

Breastfeeding employees shall be provided flexible breaks to accommodate breastfeeding or milk expression.

Breastfeeding employees shall be provided a flexible schedule for breastfeeding or pumping to provide breast milk for their children. The time allowed would not exceed the normal time allowed to other employees for lunch and breaks. For time above and beyond normal lunch and breaks, sick/annual leave may be used, or the employee can come in earlier or leave later to make up the time.

Breastfeeding promotion information will be displayed.

The center will provide information on breastfeeding, including the names of area resources should questions or problems arise. In addition, positive promotion of breastfeeding will be on display in the center.

This sample breastfeeding policy was taken from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, *Ten Steps to Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care Centers Resource Kit*. To download the resource kit, visit http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/physicalactivity/pdf_files/BreastfeedingFriendlyChildCareCenters.pdf



This information and project have been adapted from the “Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care Initiative” of the Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute /UNC Gillings School of Public Health and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, *Ten Steps to Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care Centers Resource Kit*.

This project is a collaboration between Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital, the Louisiana Breastfeeding Coalition, local breastfeeding coalitions, Volunteers of America/Partnerships in Child Care, and the Louisiana Office of Public Health-Maternal and Child Health Program.