



Infant Feeding Policy

The children's individual needs will be discussed with parents to ensure that they are met. Feeds will be prepared as and when they are required by the babies and not as part of the nursery routine.

Breast Milk

This policy and procedure outline the arrangements necessary for the safe storage and use of breast milk.

Containers

Breast milk should be brought in a sterilized bottle or in a sterile breast milk bag that is suitable for the purpose of refrigerated storage and clearly marked with the infant's full name.

Bottles will be returned to parents/carers at the end of each day. The containers will be washed but not sterilized.

Parents must ensure that the container is sterilized before re-use.

Storage

Breast milk should be provided on a daily basis, and any unused milk will be discarded at the end of each feed.

General Handling

Breast milk is to be kept sterile at all times.

Breast milk is not to be left at room temperature for more than 1 hour.

Breast milk is not to be heated on the stove or in the microwave.

Breast Milk Procedure

The following procedures are to be used by all staff handling, storing or using breast milk to feed an infant.

On Delivery:

- Ensure that the parent has provided the breast milk in an airtight bottle clearly marked with the child's name and dated.
- Breast milk is to be placed at the back of the fridge where it is the coolest prior to feeding an infant with breast milk.
- Before feeding an infant with breast milk, ensure that a positive identification of the child is made, the date is checked and the correct breast milk is fed to the correct child.

Warming Breast Milk:

- Breast milk is to be warmed to a suitable body temperature to take the 'edge' off the milk by placing it in hot water.
- The milk is then to be checked for temperature to ensure that the milk is cool enough for the baby to drink.

Feeding an Infant with Breast Milk:

- Feed the baby as normal using a suitable bottle and teat.
- Ensure that the baby is 'winded' correctly.

After Feeding an Infant with Breast Milk:

- Unused breast milk (in that bottle) is to be discarded after 1 hour.
- Record feed time and amount taken by the infant.
- After the child's final feed or at the end of the day, discard all unused breast milk stored for that child in the fridge.

Hygiene

Breast milk is a bodily fluid which carries with it a (small) risk of infection and/or disease.

This policy advises staff handling or carrying out the feeding of breast milk to protect themselves against the risks of infection by;

- Implementing good hygiene practices.
- Avoiding actual contact with the breast milk.
- Only employees who have undertaken training by management will undertake feed preparation duties.

Formula Milk

This policy and procedure outline the arrangements necessary for the safe storage and use of formula milk.

Containers

Parents/carers are asked to provide suitable ready-made carton of formula milk, which is named, along with a suitably named bottle. They are asked to provide enough sterilised bottles and cartons of milk for the number of feeds required during the day. Bottles will not be reused.

Alternatively, parents/carers are welcome to provide pre-made formula in a suitably named bottle.

Formula Milk Procedure

The following procedures are to be used by all staff handling, storing or using formula milk to feed an infant.

On Delivery:

- Ensure that the parent has provided a carton of formula milk and a pre-sterilised bottle clearly marked with the baby's name or a bottle containing pre-made formula.
- Before feeding a child with formula milk, ensure that a positive identification of the baby is made, and the correct formula milk is fed to the correct baby.

Warming Formula Milk:

- If a pre-made bottle of formula has been provided, the formula milk is to be warmed to a suitable body temperature to take the 'edge' off the milk by placing it in hot water.
- If a carton of formula milk has been provided, the formula milk is to be transferred into a pre-sterilised bottle before it is warmed as per the instructions on the carton.
- The milk is then to be checked for temperature to ensure that the milk is cool enough for the baby to drink.

Feeding an Infant with Formula Milk:

- Feed the baby as normal using a suitable bottle and teat.
- Ensure that the baby is 'winded' correctly.

After Feeding an Infant with Breast Milk:

- Discard any milk that has not been consumed within 1 hour.
- Record feed time and amount taken by the infant.

Staff Responsibilities

- Staff will follow the correct procedures for handling either formula or breast milk and will adhere to both Food Hygiene standards and Health and Safety guidelines.
- Staff will adhere to this policy and its procedures.
- Staff will record the amount of formula or breast milk consumed by the baby on Family so that the parent can be informed of the child's intake for that day.
- During a feed, babies will never be left unsupervised. A member of staff should hold the baby and sit on the armchair.
- Staff are not required to wear gloves or aprons when feeding bottles to babies as it is important to make them feel comfortable and to feed them in a 'home like' environment.