

Bottle Feeding Your Baby

Bottle feeding with formula will meet your baby's food needs. Your doctor will help decide which formula is right for your baby. Never give milk from cows or goats to a baby during the first year.

Types of Formula

Formula comes in three forms:

- Ready to feed formulas need no mixing.
 - ▶ Pour the formula into a clean bottle.
 - ▶ Use ready to feed formula if you are unsure about the quality of your water.
 - ▶ Once opened, use the formula within 48 hours.
 - ▶ This type of formula costs the most.
- Liquid concentrate formula needs to be mixed with equal parts of water.
 - ▶ Once mixed, use this formula within 48 hours.
 - ▶ This formula costs less than ready to feed.
- Powdered formula needs to be mixed with water.
 - ▶ Once mixed, use this formula within 24 hours.
 - ▶ This type of formula costs the least.

Water from your faucet is often clean enough to use unless it is supplied by a well or your house has old plumbing. Old plumbing may contain lead. Lead poisoning can cause brain damage in your baby. If you have well water or old plumbing, have the water tested every year. You may need to use bottled water for your baby.

Feeding Your Baby

Ask your baby's doctor how many ounces and how often to feed your baby. Every time your baby cries he may not be hungry. Watch your baby for feeding cues such as moving his hands to his mouth, movement of legs or arms, and making noises. Do not delay feeding when your baby has signs of being hungry even if you feel you have just fed your baby.

Each baby's eating habits are different. As a general guide:

- During the first few days, most babies eat about 1 to 2 ounces at each feeding every 2 to 4 hours.
- By two weeks, most babies are eating 3 to 4 ounces at each feeding every 3 to 4 hours. In time, your baby will develop a pattern.
- Your baby may eat different amounts at times.

Preparing the Formula

- Wash your hands before touching the bottle or nipple.
- If you are using liquid concentrate formula, mix the formula with equal parts of water.
- If you are using powdered formula, mix 1 level scoop of formula with 2 fluid ounces of water. Stir the formula well. If you add too much or too little water to the formula, your baby may not get enough food. Do not add cereal, honey, corn syrup or other ingredients to your baby's formula.
- Throw out unused mixed formula left in your baby's bottle. Start with a fresh bottle of formula at each feeding. Germs called bacteria can grow between feedings and make your baby sick.

Bottle Nipples

Use a nipple for your baby's age. Make sure the nipple hole is small enough so the formula drips out slowly.

Warming Bottles

Formula should be at room temperature. To warm formula, place the bottle in a pan or bowl of heated water. Mix the formula in the bottle and test the temperature by dropping a few drops of formula on the inside of your wrist.

Never warm bottles in the microwave or on the stove because it destroys vitamins and does not heat the formula evenly. The bottle could explode or cause serious burns to your baby.