



Supporting Breastfeeding in the Child Care Setting Parent Handbook

(May be included in the Infant/Child Feeding section of Parent Handbook)

We support breastfeeding and/or milk expression for our clients, staff, and visitors. In recognition of the well documented health advantages and benefits for young children and breastfeeding parents, we will intentionally provide you and your child/ren with a **Supportive Environment which will include a clean, designated area (other than a bathroom) for staff, families, and visitors to breastfeed and/or express milk.** For breastfeeding, this would be a comfortable chair. For milk expression, this would be a designated lactation area, shielded from view or free from intrusion with an electrical outlet. Breastfeeding parents are encouraged to breastfeed or express milk on site. Similarly, staff is also given adequate time to express milk and/or breastfeed. **We intend to create a culturally appropriate breastfeeding environment.** Staff and families receive accurate printed materials and information about breastfeeding support and promotion services within their community. Materials will be evidence-based, comprehensive, and up-to-date, easily accessible, and actively distributed. A list of community resources including local IBCLCs, breastfeeding-friendly medical providers, WIC agencies, and local support groups will be made available. **We discuss breastfeeding support with all potential new families and share our Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care policy and breastfeeding resources.** The policy is included in this parent handbook and within our employee handbook and accessible at all times. **Based on World Health Organization recommendations for age-appropriate feeding in response to feeding cues, caregivers within our facility use the paced bottle feeding method.** Exclusively breastfed babies are fed only breast milk during the first six months, meaning no formula, water, or solid foods are fed without prior permission from the family. **Our staff receive breastfeeding training** annually on feeding breast milk, health benefits, supporting exclusive breastfeeding, and safe storage, handling, and labeling of breast milk. Lastly, **we will never deny children entry into our facility because they are breastfeeding.** The Michigan Breastfeeding Anti-discrimination Act passed in 2014 protects breastfeeding in public (SB 674) and federal law now protects a woman's right to express milk in the workplace. We protect, promote, and support breastfeeding for all families as well.