

A GUIDE TO BREASTFEEDING YOUR NEWBORN



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Care Center**





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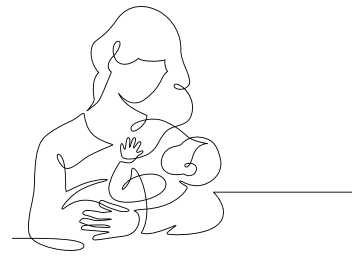
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Wet diapers may exceed those indicated in this chart in the first few days. The numbers of stools per day is a better indicator of adequate intake than wet diapers.

Notes: _____



Infant Hunger Cues

Babies show several cues in readiness for breastfeeding. Tuning into your baby's cues will make your feeding more successful and satisfying for both your baby and for you.

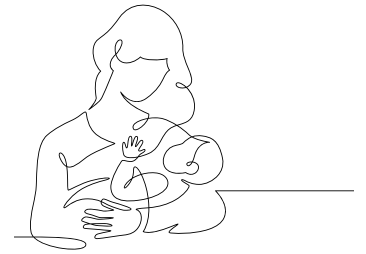
Your baby does not have to cry to let you know he is hungry. ***Crying is the last hunger cue!***

- ❖ Awakening
- ❖ Soft sounds
- ❖ Mouthing (licking lips, sticking tongue out, licking lips)
- ❖ Rooting towards the breast (turning the head and opening the mouth)
- ❖ Hand to mouth activity
- ❖ Crying beginning softly and gradually growing in intensity



Try to catch your baby's feeding cues early in the cycle – avoid crying – and begin breastfeeding!

Positioning & Latch-On: Baby-Led Latching



The way you hold your baby and how he latches-on to the breast, are the keys to comfortable feeding for you and full feedings for your baby. Correct positioning and latch-on can prevent many of the common problems mothers encounter when starting to breastfeed.

Baby-led latching is good for the first feeding and for all feedings after that when the baby is awake and willing to participate.

Getting Comfortable

Choose a bed or sofa where you can lean back about half way or more, whatever is comfortable for you.

Positioning Your Baby

Position the baby between your breasts and allow your baby to wake skin-to-skin. Holding your newborn skin-to-skin is one of the best ways to make breastfeeding easy!

Be Patient

Your baby will gradually realize where he is and that food is nearby! He will slowly begin to move towards the breast. Provide support and assist a bit if it seems necessary, but avoid directing the baby. Your baby will locate the nipple and latch-on with minimal assistance from you. Let your baby lead the way.



This baby located the breast and latched on independently



The Importance of Skin to Skin Contact

Babies tend to feed best when they have direct contact with mother, in skin-to-skin contact. Not only does it keep baby warm, the smells and feel of the breast encourage the baby to locate the breast and begin feeding.

Mix & Match Techniques

You may find that the sandwich hold would help your baby get a deeper latch-on the breast. Place thumb near the baby's nose and fingers on the opposite side of the breast, and gently compress the breast into a "sandwich". Listen for swallows to assure that your baby is drinking milk.

Feel free to use any of the Mother-led Latching techniques from the handout "Mother-led Latching" if they seem to work better at the time.

If you find breastfeeding painful or your baby is not gaining weight (2/3 to 1 oz per day), please seek the help of a lactation consultant to give you personalized guidance.

Although breastfeeding is natural, it is a learning process for both you and your baby. Allow yourself several weeks to perfect these techniques.

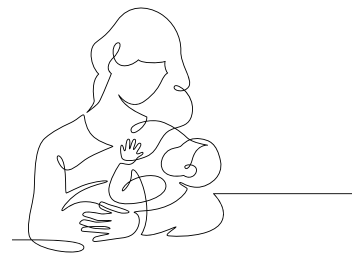
At any time that you are unsure that you are feeding correctly, seek the help of a lactation consultant or other knowledgeable health care provider. Once breastfeeding is fully established, it can be one of the most rewarding experiences of new motherhood.



Sandwich hold

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Positioning & Latch-On: Mother-Led Latching



The way you hold your baby and how he latches-on to the breast, are the keys to comfortable feeding for you and full feedings for your baby. Correct positioning and latch-on can prevent many of the common problems mother's encounter when starting to breastfeed.

Mother-led latching is good for any time the baby needs additional assistance, is too sleepy to latch spontaneously or you have sore nipples.

Getting Comfortable

Choose a comfortable chair or sofa with good support for your back. Use a footstool to bring your knees up so your lap is slightly inclined and the pressure is off the small of your back. Position pillows where ever needed to support your arms and relax your shoulders.



Look for a straight line from the baby's ear to the shoulder to the hips. His head should not be tipped back or on his chest.

Positioning Your Baby

With any position you choose to hold your baby, turn your baby completely onto his side, "tummy to tummy", so his mouth is directly in front of the breast and he does not need to turn his head at all to get to the nipple.

Position your baby with his nose to your nipple so he has to "reach up" slightly to grasp the nipple. His chin should touch the breast first, then grasp the nipple.



Place your baby's lower arm around your waist. This will draw him close to you. Look for a straight line from your baby's ears, to shoulders, to hips. His legs should curl around your waist.

Basic positions for breastfeeding

Beginner's Positions
(first few days or weeks)
Cross Cradle Hold
Football Hold

Advanced Positions
(after the latch-on is easy and quick)
Cradle Hold
Side Lying

The Cross-Cradle Hold is one of the preferred positions for the early days of breastfeeding. You will have good control of the position of your baby's head when you place your hand behind your baby's ears. Roll the baby to face you "belly to belly".



The Football Hold (clutch hold) is good for mothers who have had a cesarean delivery because the weight of the baby is not on the abdomen. Tuck the baby under your arm with pillow support to place the baby at breast height. Tuck a pillow or rolled receiving blanket under your wrist for support.

Place your baby's head in the bend of your arm or on your forearm and support his body with your arm in the **cradle hold**. Roll the baby towards you "belly to belly".



Side Lying is great for getting a bit of rest while your baby nurses or if you want to avoid sitting because of soreness. Notice the pillow support and your back and the baby's back, and between your legs. Roll the baby towards you "belly to belly".



The Cradle Hold is great for after the baby is nursing easily and the latch-on is easy. It is the most common position and you will often see this in pictures of breastfeeding mothers. Please wait to use this position until your baby latches easily.



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Latch-On

Compress your areola slightly to make a "nipple sandwich" for the baby. This will allow the baby to get a deeper latch-on. Make sure your fingers are well behind the edges of the areola (1 to 1 ½ " from the base of the nipple). Allow your baby's head to lean back slightly so his chin touches the breast first.



An easy way to remember how to hold your hand is to keep your thumb by your baby's nose and your fingers by the baby's chin. That way you will automatically rotate your hand to match the baby's positioning.

Touch your nipple to the philtrum (the skin between his nose and lips). Your baby will open wide and you can bring him on to the breast. If he doesn't, tickle the philtrum and wait until he opens WIDE (like a yawn) and his tongue comes forward. He should get the nipple and a "big mouthful" of the areola (the dark brown part of the breast) in his mouth. Bring the baby to the breast, not the breast to the baby!

Listen for swallowing every 3 to 5 sucks (May not be apparent until your milk comes in). Once your milk is in you will notice swallowing with every suck.

Let the baby nurse for 15-20 minutes on each breast or 20-30 on one breast. 8 - 12 feedings each 24 hours is normal for a newborn. Refer to the handout "How do I know my baby is getting enough?" for details.

Check Your Latch-On

Your baby's **chin** should touch the breast, his nose should be free.

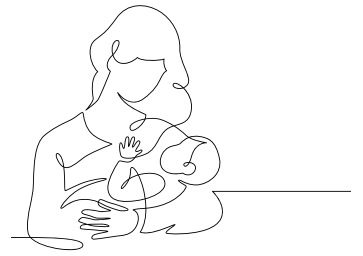
Worried that your baby can't breathe while at the breast? Don't! If the baby truly can't breathe, he will let go. Usually, babies can breathe easily even when pressed close to the breast because they can breathe around the "corners" of their noses. Do not press on the breast to make a breathing passage for the baby to breathe. This can distort the shape of the nipple in the baby's mouth and contribute to soreness as well as limit the drainage from the area of the breast above your fingers. If necessary, pull the baby's hips in closer to you. This should free up his nose.

Some mothers describe pain as their baby latches-on that eases as the milk begins to flow. This will subside over time, as your body adapts to breastfeeding. If it persists, remove your baby from the breast and re-attach him. The angle of your baby's lips at the breast is greater than 140 degrees or greater.



Most of the areola is in your baby's mouth and both upper and lower lips are flanged (rolled out). You feel deep pulling sensation as the baby nurses. It should not be sharp pain or last more than a moment during the latch-on.

If you need to remove your baby from the breast, slip your finger between his lips and gums to break the suction. Wait for the suction to release, and remove him.



Essentials of Positioning & Latch-On Checklist

Getting Comfortable

- ✓ Hold head behind ears
- ✓ Nose to nipple
- ✓ Belly to belly



Offer the Breast

- ✓ Sandwich hold
- ✓ Stroke nipple from nose to chin rolling out lower lip
- ✓ Bring baby to breast, not breast to baby



Check on the Latch

- ✓ Flanged lips, open mouth to 140o
- ✓ No pain, no wedged or creased nipple
- ✓ Chin touching breast, asymmetrical latch-on



Assess Milk Transfer

- ✓ Wide jaw excursion
- ✓ Consistent sucking
- ✓ Audible swallowing (after milk comes in)



Signs of a Good Feeling

latch-on remains the same.

Signs of a Good Latch

The baby has a deep latch with an angle where the lips meet the breast of at least 140°

Both upper and lower lips are flanged (rolled out)

All or most of your areola is in the baby's mouth (at least 1" from the base of the nipple). More from the bottom of the areola than the top (asymmetrical latch-on).



You are comfortable through the feeding. There may be some "latch-on" pain that subsides quickly.

There is movement in the baby's temples with sucking and the jaw moves up and down an inch or more.

There is slight movement of your breast near the baby's lips.

Hearing swallowing at least every third suck once the milk comes-in. Seeing milk in the baby's mouth

Consistent sucking with only brief pauses

The breasts are softer after feedings

Appropriate output for age. (1 wet diaper on day 1, 2 wet diapers on day 2, 3 wet diapers on day 3, 6 wet diapers on day 4 and on, and several stools each day)

Feeling strong, deep, "pulling", sucking, no sharp pain

Leaking from the other breast or feeling of a "let-down" reflex or noticing a change in the baby's sucking rhythm from faster to slower

15 - 20 minutes vigorous sucking on each breast or 20 - 30 minutes on one side for a newborn. 5-10 minutes for an older baby

Your baby nurses 8 -12 times per day (24 hour day). Less than 8 or more than 12 is a concern

Your baby latches-on easily with minimal attempts and stays latched-on.

Minimal weight loss during the first few days (<10% of birth weight) and return to birth weight by 2 weeks

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Storage & Handling of Breastmilk

Working mothers or others who are pumping breastmilk for their infants should store the milk in the cleanest and safest way. It can be stored in any clean container: plastic, glass or nurser bags. Recommendations for storage temperatures and times vary greatly from one authority to another. We are recommending guidelines based on research and common sense.

Room Temperature

Freshly pumped breastmilk can be kept at room temperature for 4 hours. If it will need to be kept longer, please refrigerate. Milk that has been previously chilled should be kept at room temperature for no longer than an hour or so.

Refrigerated

Breastmilk may be stored in a refrigerator 4-8 days. If you think that you may not use it within that time period, freeze it. If you find you have milk that has almost reached its expiration date in the refrigerator, you may freeze it for later use.

Frozen

Breastmilk may be stored in a freezer for up to 3 months and in a deep freeze for up to 12 months. The freezer is cold enough if it keeps your ice cream solid. That will be about 0° F or -20° C. It should be placed in a part of the freezer that will not be subject to changes in temperature as the door is opened and closed. If plastic nurser bags are used, they should be doubled or protected from being bumped and torn in the freezer.



Layering Breastmilk

You may add “new” milk to previously chilled or frozen milk. Chill the “new” milk prior to adding it to the container of milk. The expiration date of that container of milk will be from the date of the original milk.

It is best to freeze milk in feeding sized quantities. If you are just starting to pump, you may not yet have an idea of what will be the right size for your baby. Freeze in 2-3 oz quantities to start. You don't want to thaw out more milk than your baby will take in 24 hours. You can always get more if necessary, but you will be dismayed if you have to discard pumped breastmilk. After you have some experience with how much your baby takes from a bottle, you can freeze milk in that quantity.

Thawed

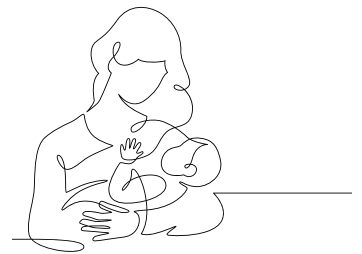
Breastmilk can be thawed in lukewarm water in just a few minutes. Then it can be warmed to serving temperature in the same manner. Never make it warmer than body temperature. Never use a microwave to thaw or warm breastmilk. Discard any milk left in a bottle after a feeding. Thawed breastmilk must be discarded after 24 hours. Do not re-freeze it.



Transporting

Chill any milk that you pump at work either in a refrigerator or a portable cooler bag. A cooler bag can be used to transport the milk home.

Hand Expression



Hand expression is a handy skill to have whenever you need to empty your breasts and you are not with your baby or your baby is temporarily unable to breastfeed. In the first few days after birth, hand expression can be more effective at removing colostrum than using a breast pump. If your baby needs a supplement in the first week or so, use hand expression to provide the milk he needs!

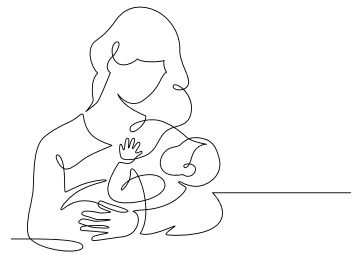
Hand Expression Routine

1. Apply heat, massage and stroke breasts
2. Position fingers behind areola
3. Press back towards chest
4. Compress fingers together to express milk
5. Relax and repeat, getting a rhythm going
6. Express for 5-7 minutes
7. Move fingers to a different position
8. Massage and stroke the breast
9. Press back towards chest
10. Compress fingers together to express milk
11. Express milk for 3-5 minutes
12. Massage and stroke breasts
13. Move fingers to a different position
14. Express milk for 1-2 minutes
15. Complete cycle takes 20-30 minutes



Watch these videos while you are hand expressing to see the technique in action

- <http://newborns.stanford.edu/Breastfeeding/HandExpression.html>
- <https://vimeo.com/65196007>



Sore Nipples

Tender and sensitive nipples are normal as you begin breastfeeding your new baby. However, very sore, cracked or bleeding nipples are not. Usually this problem is related to the way your baby latches-on to the breast. It is important that your baby get a big "mouthful" of the nipple and areola.

Positioning

1. Hold your baby's head behind his ears



2. Align him "nose to nipple"

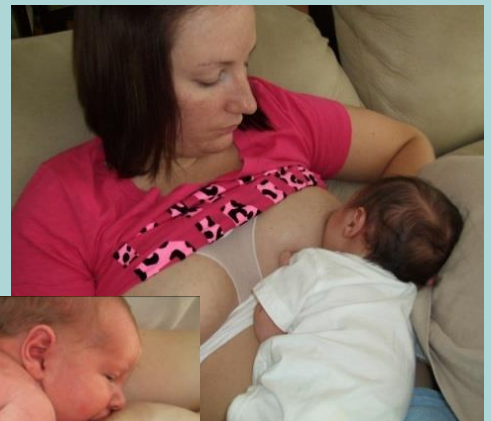


3. Roll him "belly to belly"



Laid back breastfeeding

Recline with your baby "on top". Use pillows to support you and your baby as needed.



This is an excellent position for feeding and may just be the trick to remedy sore nipples.

Cross-cradle hold

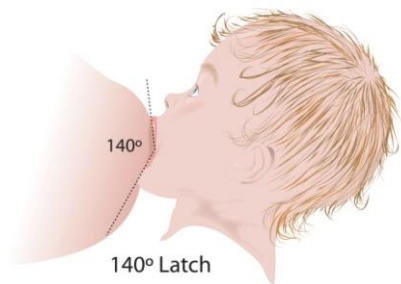
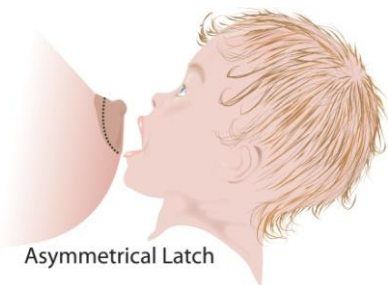


Latch-On

Use a “sandwich hold” to achieve a better latch-on. Gently squeeze the breast to shape it like an oval that fits deeply in your baby’s mouth.



Look for a wide mouth on the breast



If breastfeeding hurts, break the suction and try the latch-on again. Do not continue with a feeding if you experience pain.

Treatment

- ✓ Correct position and latch-on
- ✓ Check wide open 140° wide mouth
- ✓ Apply your expressed breastmilk or purified lanolin to nipples after feeds
- ✓ Use breast shells to protect the nipple



- ✓ Look for a wide mouth on the breast
- ✓ Use hydrogel dressings to speed healing



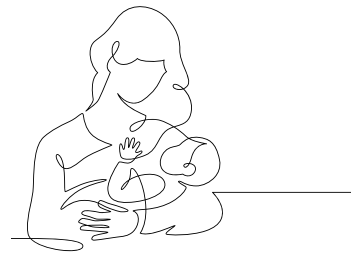
- ✓ Feed for short, frequent feedings
- ✓ Start on the least sore side
- ✓ Rotate the position of your baby at each feeding
- ✓ If your breasts are very full, hand express some milk, use reverse pressure softening (see handout on engorgement) or use a breast pump

These measures may help you resolve uncomplicated problems with sore nipples. There are circumstances where sore nipples indicate a more severe problem. Please seek help if your problem does not resolve quickly.

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Information for breastfeeding families

The Employed Breastfeeding Monther



No doubt about it, returning to work can be a stressful situation and an emotional one for you. You may experience some conflicting emotions: guilt for leaving your new baby and maybe being glad to get out the house and "life as usual" at work.

The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages mothers to provide breastmilk for the first six months of your baby's life for optimum health, and to continue for the first year or longer) as you add more solid foods to his diet after about 6 months.

The good news is you CAN do it. You will find that motherhood helps you increase your efficiency and you learn to better manage your time both at home and at work. You become more organized because there is no extra time in your day to waste!

Getting Ready

Choosing someone to care for your baby is one of your most important decisions. You may select someone close to your home or close to your workplace. If care is available in your workplace, that is ideal since you could breastfeed at work.

Purchase the best pump you can afford. It will be worth it. Or you may choose to rent a breast pump for as long as you plan on breastfeeding. The better quality pump you use, the better you will be able to maintain your breastmilk supply. Select one that can pump both sides at the same time.

There are hospital grade breast pumps, personal use pumps, small electric and battery operated pumps and manually operated pumps. A rental hospital grade pump or a personal use breast pump are most suitable for a mother who wishes to maintain her supply by pumping at work. Commonly recommended pumps are Medela and Ameda, but there are many other brands on the market you might select.

Talk to your employer about a private, clean place that you can use your pump. Some employers have a designated room, and some even provide a hospital grade breast pump for the use of several women. Make sure you know how to attach your pump kit and how to use the pump. You may want to do a practice run, timing how long it takes to travel, locating where you can store your milk, and using your breast pump.

Although it is not required, you may want to stockpile some milk prior to returning to work to use as a "back-up". About 2 weeks' worth of milk in your freezer will give you confidence (about 60 oz) that you have some breastmilk to fall back on if you are not able to pump quite enough as you get adjusted to the new routine.

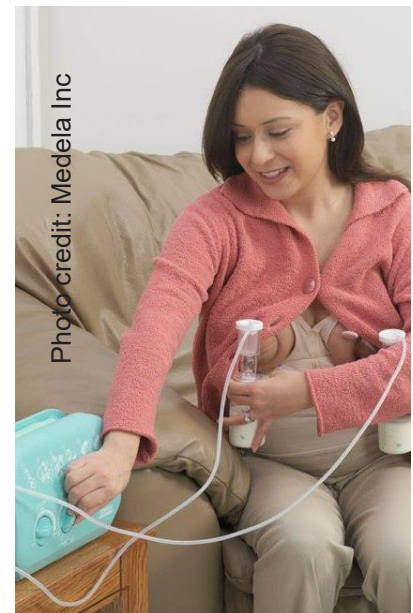


Photo credit: Medela Inc

Pumping

Plan to use a breast pump the same number of times that the baby will be feeding while you are gone. That may be 2-4 times. Try to maintain a routine in your scheduled pumping sessions. Avoid skipping or postponing pumping. Doing this too often will affect your milk supply. Do the best you can. If you have a long commute added to your work day, try to add another pumping session. The more you pump the more milk you will make, so make a priority of pumping on a regular basis. Pump 2-3 times per day.

Pumping

Start the suction on low each time you pump and gradually increase the suction (over the first 2-3 minutes) to the maximum setting that is comfortable for you. That is different for everyone. The pump is pre-set to the strength of a normal infant's suck so it is unlikely you will find it too strong. If you do, stop increasing the suction just when it begins to pinch. Too much suction can collapse your milk ducts and result in poor milk emptying.

Do a 10–15 minute session or watch for 2-3 let-down reflexes (time when the milk is flowing faster, then it will slow down again). Pump for 2-3 minutes after the last drops of milk. If you are pressed for time, short frequent sessions are better than just one long one.

Maintaining your breastmilk supply

Pump regularly and breastfeed when you are at home. That is the best way to keep up an abundant milk supply. If you see your supply wane during the week, breastfeed exclusively on your days off and do a bit of extra pumping if you have time.

Mother's Milk Tea, cooked oatmeal and an occasional beer are common recommendations to increase breastmilk supply. If you need additional help, contact a lactation consultant.

Leaking at work

Most women have no trouble with this, but it can be embarrassing. If you do occasionally leak, have a ready source of breast pads, re-usable or disposable. For more problematic leaking, try Lily-Padz or Bliss Leakage Inhibitor.

Pump directly into a feeding bottle or a plastic storage bag



Success as an employed breastfeeding mother depends on consistent pumping when not with your baby.

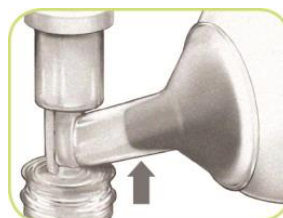
Your baby will thank you for your efforts!

Make sure your pump kit fits you

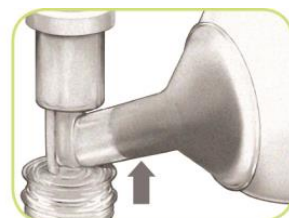
You should see your nipple move in and out with each suction cycle. There should be no white ring round the nipple and your breasts should empty completely. If it hurts or you are not getting milk, it is probably too small and you need larger flanges. They can be obtained from hospitals, lactation consultants and on-line stores.

Your flange fits you if:

- ✓ Your nipple moves in and out with each suction/release phase
- ✓ Your breast empties all over, no pockets of hardness
- ✓ The flange supports the breast and areola, none of the areola is pulled into the nipple tunnel
- ✓ There is slight movement in the breast with each cycling of the pump
- ✓ The nipple is not sore or cracked and there is no pressure ring or blanched skin around the nipple



Good Fit
Space seen around nipple.



Too Tight
Nipple rubbing along tunnel.

Image credit: Ameda, Inc

Storing your milk

You may just close your bottle of pumped breastmilk with a tightly fitting lid and put it in your purse to take home. Or you can use plastic mother's milk bags.

- ✓ Freshly pumped breastmilk is good at room temperature for 4 hours. Or you may choose to chill it for the trip home if it will be longer than 4 hours. Freezer packs are handy for this and come with most personal use pumps.
- ✓ Breastmilk stored in the refrigerator is good for 5-7 days
- ✓ Breastmilk can be frozen for 3-6 months. Once you have thawed previously frozen breastmilk, it is only good for 24 hours!

It is a good idea at first to keep milk in small quantities until you have a good idea of how much your baby will take at one time. Milk left over in the bottle must be discarded if not consumed. You will hate to do that! Choose bottles that are not made of polycarbonate due to the concerns about BPA contamination of breastmilk stored and heated in them.



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