



Bright Futures Parent Handout 4 Month Visit

Here are some suggestions from Bright Futures experts that may be of value to your family.

How Your Family Is Doing

- Take time for yourself.
- Take time together with your partner.
- Spend time alone with your other children.
- Encourage your partner to help care for your baby.
- Choose a mature, trained, and responsible babysitter or caregiver.
- You can talk with us about your child care choices.
- Hold, cuddle, talk to, and sing to your baby each day.
- Massaging your infant may help your baby go to sleep more easily.
- Get help if you and your partner are in conflict. Let us know. We can help.

FAMILY FUNCTIONING

Feeding Your Baby

- Feed only breast milk or iron-fortified formula in the first 4–6 months.

If Breastfeeding

- If you are still breastfeeding, that's great!
- Plan for pumping and storage of breast milk.

If Formula Feeding

- Make sure to prepare, heat, and store the formula safely.
- Hold your baby so you can look at each other while feeding.
- Do not prop the bottle.
- Do not give your baby a bottle in the crib.

Solid Food

- You may begin to feed your baby solid food when your baby is ready.
- Some of the signs your baby is ready for solids
 - Opens mouth for the spoon.
 - Sits with support.
 - Good head and neck control.
 - Interest in foods you eat.
- Avoid foods that cause allergy—peanuts, tree nuts, fish, and shellfish.
- Avoid feeding your baby too much by following the baby's signs of fullness

NUTRITIONAL ADEQUACY AND GROWTH

NUTRITION

Safety

- Leaning back
- Turning away
- Ask us about programs like WIC that can help get food for you if you are breastfeeding and formula for your baby if you are formula feeding.
- Use a rear-facing car safety seat in the back seat in all vehicles.
- Always wear a seat belt and never drive after using alcohol or drugs.
- Keep small objects and plastic bags away from your baby.
- Keep a hand on your baby on any high surface from which she can fall and be hurt.
- Prevent burns by setting your water heater so the temperature at the faucet is 120°F or lower.
- Do not drink hot drinks when holding your baby.
- Never leave your baby alone in bathwater, even in a bath seat or ring.
- The kitchen is the most dangerous room. Don't let your baby crawl around there; use a playpen or high chair instead.
- Do not use a baby walker.

SAFETY

Your Changing Baby

- Keep routines for feeding, nap time, and bedtime.

Crib/Playpen

- Put your baby to sleep on her back.
- In a crib that meets current safety standards, with no drop-side rail and slats no more than 2³/₈ inches apart. Find more information on the Consumer Product Safety Commission Web site at www.cpsc.gov.
- If your crib has a drop-side rail, keep it up and locked at all times. Contact the crib company to see if there is a device to keep the drop-side rail from falling down.

INFANT DEVELOPMENT

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ORAL HEALTH

- Keep soft objects and loose bedding such as comforters, pillows, bumper pads, and toys out of the crib.
- Lower your baby's mattress.
- If using a mesh playpen, make sure the openings are less than ¼ inch apart.

Playtime

- Learn what things your baby likes and does not like.
- Encourage active play.
 - Offer mirrors, floor gyms, and colorful toys to hold.
 - Tummy time—put your baby on his tummy when awake and you can watch.
- Promote quiet play.
 - Hold and talk with your baby.
 - Read to your baby often.

Crying

- Give your baby a pacifier or his fingers or thumb to suck when crying.

Healthy Teeth

- Go to your own dentist twice yearly. It is important to keep your teeth healthy so that you don't pass bacteria that causes tooth decay on to your baby.
- Do not share spoons or cups with your baby or use your mouth to clean the baby's pacifier.
- Use a cold teething ring if your baby has sore gums with teething.

What to Expect at Your Baby's 6 Month Visit

We will talk about

- Introducing solid food
- Getting help with your baby
- Home and car safety
- Brushing your baby's teeth
- Reading to and teaching your baby

Poison Help: 1-800-222-1222

Child safety seat inspection:
1-866-SEATCHECK; seatcheck.org



American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

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Introducing Complementary Foods

How do I tell if my baby is ready for complementary foods?

- Breastfeeding is a complete source of nutrition for the first 6 months of life. Our practice recommends exclusive breastfeeding for as long as possible during the first year of life. Many parents introduce formula feedings in the early months as well. Introducing pureed baby food helps babies to learn to enjoy new tastes and textures and is fun!
- Between 4 and 6 months, most babies are able to hold their heads up without wobbling and stop having a prominent “tongue thrust” reflex. When these milestones occur and parents feel ready it is time to start complementary foods.
- Always take your time and follow your baby’s cues. If your baby is interested and enjoying the experience, keep going. If not, wait a week or so and try again. There is no rush.

What foods should I introduce first and what is the schedule?

- There are many opinions about which foods to introduce first. The most important concept is to wait a few days in between new foods to make sure your baby doesn’t have an allergic reaction. Allergic reactions can include vomiting, frequent diarrhea, blood in stools, eczema/hives or other rash. If you suspect an allergic reaction, discontinue the food and call our office.
- We encourage a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, so this is a good place to start. Babies also need an additional source of iron in the diet, so enriched cereals and pureed meats are good to introduce as well. If you are vegetarian or prefer not to introduce meats or cereal, consider adding a multivitamin with iron such as [Poly Vi Sol with Iron](#), 1 ml dropperful each day, especially if you are breast feeding. Breast milk has a small amount of iron that is very well absorbed, but without an additional source of iron, many babies become anemic.
- Begin by trying a few spoonfuls of a food. As your baby gets the hang of it, work up to 2 meals a day including a fruit or vegetable and a source of iron at each feeding. You can offer the food at a meal time and include breast milk or formula before or after the pureed foods, whichever your baby prefers.,
- You can make your own baby food or buy the prepared ones, whichever you prefer. Stage 1 foods are a thin, smooth puree. Stage 2 foods are still a smooth puree, but are a little thicker, with more varieties. Stage 3 foods contain a chunk and smooth component. Most babies prefer self-feeding when they are ready for a chunky food.
- *NOTE: If you make your own baby food, be aware that home-prepared spinach, beets, green beans, squash, and carrots are not good choices during early infancy. They may contain large amounts of nitrates. Nitrates are chemicals that can cause an unusual type of **anemia** (low blood count) in young babies. Commercially prepared vegetables are safer because the manufacturers test for nitrates. Peas, corn, and sweet potatoes are better choices for home-prepared baby foods.*

Helpful References:

Books

Feed Me, I'm Yours by Vicki Lansky

Child of Mine: Feeding with Love and Good Sense by Ellyn Satter

Cooking Light First Foods: Baby Steps to a Lifetime of Healthy Eating

Websites

Healthychildren.org

CHOA.org

Blogs

Incredibleinfant.com

<http://www.drgreene.com/infant-nutrition-health-center/>



Your Child's First Vaccines

What You Need to Know

Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis

Hojas de información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite www.immunize.org/vis

The vaccines covered on this statement are those most likely to be given during the same visits during infancy and early childhood. Other vaccines (including measles, mumps, and rubella; varicella; rotavirus; influenza; and hepatitis A) are also routinely recommended during the first five years of life.

Your child will get these vaccines today:

DTaP Hib Hepatitis B Polio PCV13

(Provider: Check appropriate boxes.)

1 Why get vaccinated?

Vaccine-preventable diseases are much less common than they used to be, thanks to vaccination. But they have not gone away. Outbreaks of some of these diseases still occur across the United States. **When fewer babies get vaccinated, more babies get sick.**

7 childhood diseases that can be prevented by vaccines:

1. Diphtheria (the 'D' in DTaP vaccine)

- **Signs and symptoms** include a thick coating in the back of the throat that can make it hard to breathe.
- **Diphtheria can lead to** breathing problems, paralysis and heart failure.
 - About 15,000 people died each year in the U.S. from diphtheria before there was a vaccine.

2. Tetanus (the 'T' in DTaP vaccine; also known as Lockjaw)

- **Signs and symptoms** include painful tightening of the muscles, usually all over the body.
- **Tetanus can lead to** stiffness of the jaw that can make it difficult to open the mouth or swallow.
 - Tetanus kills about 1 person out of every 10 who get it.

3. Pertussis (the 'P' in DTaP vaccine, also known as Whooping Cough)

- **Signs and symptoms** include violent coughing spells that can make it hard for a baby to eat, drink, or breathe. These spells can last for several weeks.
- **Pertussis can lead to** pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, or death. Pertussis can be very dangerous in infants.
 - Most pertussis deaths are in babies younger than 3 months of age.

4. Hib (*Haemophilus influenzae* type b)

- **Signs and symptoms** can include fever, headache, stiff neck, cough, and shortness of breath. There might not be any signs or symptoms in mild cases.
- **Hib can lead to** meningitis (infection of the brain and spinal cord coverings); pneumonia; infections of the ears, sinuses, blood, joints, bones, and covering of the heart; brain damage; severe swelling of the throat, making it hard to breathe; and deafness.
 - Children younger than 5 years of age are at greatest risk for Hib disease.

5. Hepatitis B

- **Signs and symptoms** include tiredness, diarrhea and vomiting, jaundice (yellow skin or eyes), and pain in muscles, joints and stomach. But usually there are no signs or symptoms at all.
- **Hepatitis B can lead to** liver damage, and liver cancer. Some people develop chronic (long term) hepatitis B infection. These people might not look or feel sick, but they can infect others.
 - Hepatitis B can cause liver damage and cancer in 1 child out of 4 who are chronically infected.

6. Polio

- **Signs and symptoms** can include flu-like illness, or there may be no signs or symptoms at all.
- **Polio can lead to** permanent paralysis (can't move an arm or leg, or sometimes can't breathe) and death.
 - In the 1950s, polio paralyzed more than 15,000 people every year in the U.S.



7. Pneumococcal Disease

- **Signs and symptoms** include fever, chills, cough, and chest pain. In infants, symptoms can also include meningitis, seizures, and sometimes rash.
- **Pneumococcal disease can lead to** meningitis (infection of the brain and spinal cord coverings); infections of the ears, sinuses and blood; pneumonia; deafness; and brain damage.
 - About 1 out of 15 children who get pneumococcal meningitis will die from the infection.

Children usually catch these diseases from other children or adults, who might not even know they are infected. A mother infected with hepatitis B can infect her baby at birth. Tetanus enters the body through a cut or wound; it is not spread from person to person.

Vaccines that protect your baby from these seven diseases:

Vaccine	Number of doses	Recommended ages	Other information
DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)	5	2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15-18 months, 4-6 years	Some children get a vaccine called DT (Diphtheria & Tetanus) instead of DTaP.
Hepatitis B	3	Birth, 1-2 months, 6-18 months	
Polio	4	2 months, 4 months, 6-18 months, 4-6 years	An additional dose of polio vaccine may be recommended for travel to certain countries.
Hib (<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b)	3 or 4	2 months, 4 months, (6 months), 12-15 months	There are several Hib vaccines. With one of them the 6-month dose is not needed.
Pneumococcal (PCV13)	4	2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 12-15 months	Older children with certain health conditions also need this vaccine.

Your healthcare provider might offer some of these vaccines as **combination vaccines**—several vaccines given in the same shot. Combination vaccines are as safe and effective as the individual vaccines, and can mean fewer shots for your baby.

2 Some children should not get certain vaccines

Most children can safely get all of these vaccines. But there are some exceptions:

- A child who has a mild cold or other illness on the day vaccinations are scheduled may be vaccinated. A child who is moderately or severely ill on the day of vaccinations might be asked to come back for them at a later date.
- Any child who had a life-threatening allergic reaction after getting a vaccine should not get another dose of that vaccine. **Tell the person giving the vaccines if your child has ever had a severe reaction after any vaccination.**
- A child who has a severe (life-threatening) allergy to a substance should not get a vaccine that contains that substance. **Tell the person giving your child the vaccines if your child has any severe allergies that you are aware of.**

Talk to your doctor before your child gets:

- **DTaP vaccine**, if your child ever had any of these reactions after a previous dose of DTaP:
 - A brain or nervous system disease within 7 days,
 - Non-stop crying for 3 hours or more,
 - A seizure or collapse,
 - A fever of over 105°F.
- **PCV13 vaccine**, if your child ever had a severe reaction after a dose of DTaP (or other vaccine containing diphtheria toxoid), or after a dose of PCV7, an earlier pneumococcal vaccine.

3 Risks of a Vaccine Reaction

With any medicine, including vaccines, there is a chance of side effects. These are usually mild and go away on their own. Most vaccine reactions are not serious: tenderness, redness, or swelling where the shot was given; or a mild fever. These happen soon after the shot is given and go away within a day or two. They happen with up to about half of vaccinations, depending on the vaccine.

Serious reactions are also possible but are rare.

Polio, Hepatitis B and Hib Vaccines have been associated only with mild reactions.

DTaP and Pneumococcal vaccines have also been associated with other problems:

DTaP Vaccine

- **Mild Problems:** Fussiness (up to 1 child in 3); tiredness or loss of appetite (up to 1 child in 10); vomiting (up to 1 child in 50); swelling of the entire arm or leg for 1-7 days (up to 1 child in 30)—usually after the 4th or 5th dose.
- **Moderate Problems:** Seizure (1 child in 14,000); non-stop crying for 3 hours or longer (up to 1 child in 1,000); fever over 105°F (1 child in 16,000).
- **Serious problems:** Long term seizures, coma, lowered consciousness, and permanent brain damage have been reported following DTaP vaccination. These reports are extremely rare.

Pneumococcal Vaccine

- **Mild Problems:** Drowsiness or temporary loss of appetite (about 1 child in 2 or 3); fussiness (about 8 children in 10).
- **Moderate Problems:** Fever over 102.2°F (about 1 child in 20).

After any vaccine:

Any medication can cause a severe allergic reaction. Such reactions from a vaccine are very rare, estimated at about 1 in a million doses, and would happen within a few minutes to a few hours after the vaccination.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a serious injury or death.

The safety of vaccines is always being monitored. For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/

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What if there is a serious reaction?

What should I look for?

- Look for anything that concerns you, such as signs of a severe allergic reaction, very high fever, or unusual behavior.

Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include hives, swelling of the face and throat, and difficulty breathing. In infants, signs of an allergic reaction might also include fever, sleepiness, and disinterest in eating. In older children signs might include a fast heartbeat, dizziness, and weakness. These would usually start a few minutes to a few hours after the vaccination.

What should I do?

- If you think it is a severe allergic reaction or other emergency that can't wait, call 9-1-1 or get the person to the nearest hospital. Otherwise, call your doctor.

Afterward, the reaction should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your doctor should file this report, or you can do it yourself through the VAERS web site at www.vaers.hhs.gov, or by calling **1-800-822-7967**.

VAERS does not give medical advice.

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The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a federal program that was created to compensate people who may have been injured by certain vaccines.

Persons who believe they may have been injured by a vaccine can learn about the program and about filing a claim by calling **1-800-338-2382** or visiting the VICP website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation. There is a time limit to file a claim for compensation.

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How can I learn more?

- Ask your healthcare provider. He or she can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call **1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)**
 - Visit CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines or www.cdc.gov/hepatitis

Vaccine Information Statement **Multi Pediatric Vaccines**

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