



Bright Futures Parent Handout 2 Month Visit

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

PARENTAL WELL-BEING

How You Are Feeling

- Taking care of yourself gives you the energy to care for your baby. Remember to go for your postpartum checkup.
- Find ways to spend time alone with your partner.
- Keep in touch with family and friends.
- Give small but safe ways for your other children to help with the baby, such as bringing things you need or holding the baby's hand.
- Spend special time with each child reading, talking, or doing things together.

Your Growing Baby

- Have simple routines each day for bathing, feeding, sleeping, and playing.
- Put your baby to sleep on her back.
 - In a crib, in your room, not in your bed.
 - 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.
- Keep soft objects and loose bedding such as comforters, pillows, bumper pads, and toys out of the crib.
- Give your baby a pacifier if she wants it.
- Hold, talk, cuddle, read, sing, and play often with your baby. This helps build trust between you and your baby.
- Tummy time—put your baby on her tummy when awake and you are there to watch.
- Learn what things your baby does and does not like.

INFANT BEHAVIOR

BEHAVIOR

- Notice what helps to calm your baby such as a pacifier, fingers or thumb, or stroking, talking, rocking, or going for walks.

Safety

- Use a rear-facing car safety seat in the back seat in all vehicles.
- Never put your baby in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger air bag.
- Always wear your seat belt and never drive after using alcohol or drugs.
- Keep your car and home smoke-free.
- Keep plastic bags, balloons, and other small objects, especially small toys from other children, away from your baby.
- Your baby can roll over, so keep a hand on your baby when dressing or changing him.
- Set the water heater so the temperature at the faucet is at or below 120°F.
- Never leave your baby alone in bathwater, even in a bath seat or ring.

SAFETY

Your Baby and Family

- Start planning for when you may go back to work or school.
- Find clean, safe, and loving child care for your baby.
- Ask us for help to find things your family needs, including child care.
- Know that it is normal to feel sad leaving your baby or upset about your baby going to child care.

INFANT-FAMILY SYNCHRONY

Feeding Your Baby

- Feed only breast milk or iron-fortified formula in the first 4–6 months.
- Avoid feeding your baby solid foods, juice, and water until about 6 months.
- Feed your baby when your baby is hungry.

NUTRITIONAL ADEQUACY

NUTRITIONAL ADEQUACY

- Feed your baby when you see signs of hunger.
 - Putting hand to mouth
 - Sucking, rooting, and fussing
- End feeding when you see signs your baby is full.
 - Turning away
 - Closing the mouth
 - Relaxed arms and hands
- Burp your baby during natural feeding breaks.

If Breastfeeding

- Feed your baby 8 or more times each day.
- Plan for pumping and storing breast milk. Let us know if you need help.

If Formula Feeding

- Feed your baby 6–8 times each day.
- Make sure to prepare, heat, and store the formula safely. If you need help, ask us.
- Hold your baby so you can look at each other.
- Do not prop the bottle.

What to Expect at Your Baby's 4 Month Visit

We will talk about

- Your baby and family
- Feeding your baby
- Sleep and crib safety
- Calming your baby
- Playtime with your baby
- Caring for your baby and yourself
- Keeping your home safe for your baby
- Healthy teeth

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™

The recommendations in this publication do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or serve as a standard of medical care. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate. Original document included as part of Bright Futures Tool and Resource Kit. Copyright © 2010 American Academy of Pediatrics, Updated 10/11. All Rights Reserved. The American Academy of Pediatrics does not review or endorse any modifications made to this document and in no event shall the AAP be liable for any such changes.