

Infant Feeding Procedure

Regulations	
EHS/HS: 1302.41 (a); 1302.44(a)	WAC: 110-300-0285; 110-300-0220

Purpose

Eating healthy foods helps children get the nutrients their bodies need to stay healthy, active, and strong.

Guidance

The early years are a critical time for children’s growth and development. The early care and education setting may be offering most of a child’s nutrition intake. Infants are fed when hungry according to their nutritional and developmental needs unless medically directed (documentation required from primary health care provider). For infant feeding, partnerships and communication with families is essential in providing safe and healthy food offerings.

Procedure

When an infant (any child enrolled under 12 months of age) is enrolled, an Infant Meal Offer Form must be completed and attached in Child Plus under Health Services. This form is completed by the teacher with the parent to ensure appropriate bottles and formula are present on the first day of class. All foods should be introduced for the first time to a child by the parent and not in the classroom.

Prior to an infant starting in class, the child must be added to an Infant Feeding Alert:

- If an infant is enrolled under 6 months, only formula or breastmilk can be served unless otherwise determined by a medical professional prior to child start date. Documented on Infant Feeding Alert 1 month-5 months.
- If an infant is enrolled 6 months or over, teachers will review the Infant Feeding Alert with the parent to identify and date what foods have already been offered at home.

Infant Feeding Alerts:

Infant Feeding Alerts must be posted in the kitchen.

- Feeding alert for infants 6 months through 11 months is considered a working document and will change continuously based on what the child is eating at home. Any permanent staff person can add dates to foods a child has eaten. This alert should be reviewed prior to any meal for that infant.
- Attached in Child Plus under Health services when a child leaves the program.

Infants Transition between 11 months-12 months:

At around 11 months, conversations between teachers and the family should occur. Discussing transitioning to milk or a milk alternative. If a milk alternative is required, notify the Family Advocate.