

BRIGHT FUTURES HANDOUT ► PARENT FIRST WEEK VISIT (3 TO 5 DAYS)

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



✓ HOW YOUR FAMILY IS DOING

- If you are worried about your living or food situation, talk with us. Community agencies and programs such as WIC and SNAP can also provide information and assistance.
- Tobacco-free spaces keep children healthy. Don't smoke or use e-cigarettes. Keep your home and car smoke-free.
- Take help from family and friends.

✓ HOW YOU ARE FEELING

- Try to sleep or rest when your baby sleeps.
- Spend time with your other children.
- Keep up routines to help your family adjust to the new baby.

✓ FEEDING YOUR BABY

- Feed your baby only breast milk or iron-fortified formula until he is about 6 months old.
- Feed your baby when he is hungry. Look for him to
 - Put his hand to his mouth.
 - Suck or root.
 - Fuss.
- Stop feeding when you see your baby is full. You can tell when he
 - Turns away
 - Closes his mouth
 - Relaxes his arms and hands
- Know that your baby is getting enough to eat if he has more than 5 wet diapers and at least 3 soft stools per day and is gaining weight appropriately.
- Hold your baby so you can look at each other while you feed him.
- Always hold the bottle. Never prop it.

If Breastfeeding

- Feed your baby on demand. Expect at least 8 to 12 feedings per day.
- A lactation consultant can give you information and support on how to breastfeed your baby and make you more comfortable.
- Begin giving your baby vitamin D drops (400 IU a day).
- Continue your prenatal vitamin with iron.
- Eat a healthy diet; avoid fish high in mercury.

If Formula Feeding

- Offer your baby 2 oz of formula every 2 to 3 hours. If he is still hungry, offer him more.

✓ BABY CARE

- Sing, talk, and read to your baby; avoid TV and digital media.
- Help your baby wake for feeding by patting her, changing her diaper, and undressing her.
- Calm your baby by stroking her head or gently rocking her.
- *Never hit or shake your baby.*
- Take your baby's temperature with a rectal thermometer, not by ear or skin; a fever is a rectal temperature of 100.4°F/38.0°C or higher. Call us anytime if you have questions or concerns.
- Plan for emergencies: have a first aid kit, take first aid and infant CPR classes, and make a list of phone numbers.
- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid crowds and keep others from touching your baby without clean hands.
- Avoid sun exposure.

Helpful Resources: Smoking Quit Line: 800-784-8669 | Poison Help Line: 800-222-1222

Information About Car Safety Seats: www.safercar.gov/parents | Toll-free Auto Safety Hotline: 888-327-4236