

BRIGHT FUTURES HANDOUT ► PARENT

9 MONTH VISIT

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



✓ HOW YOUR FAMILY IS DOING

- If you feel unsafe in your home or have been hurt by someone, let us know. Hotlines and community agencies can also provide confidential help.
- Keep in touch with friends and family.
- Invite friends over or join a parent group.
- Take time for yourself and with your partner.

✓ FEEDING YOUR BABY

- Be patient with your baby as he learns to eat without help.
- Know that messy eating is normal.
- Emphasize healthy foods for your baby. Give him 3 meals and 2 to 3 snacks each day.
- Start giving more table foods. No foods need to be withheld except for raw honey and large chunks that can cause choking.
- Vary the thickness and lumpiness of your baby's food.
- Don't give your baby soft drinks, tea, coffee, and flavored drinks.
- Avoid feeding your baby too much. Let him decide when he is full and wants to stop eating.
- Keep trying new foods. Babies may say no to a food 10 to 15 times before they try it.
- Help your baby learn to use a cup.
- Continue to breastfeed as long as you can and your baby wishes. Talk with us if you have concerns about weaning.
- Continue to offer breast milk or iron-fortified formula until 1 year of age. Don't switch to cow's milk until then.

✓ YOUR CHANGING AND DEVELOPING BABY

- Keep daily routines for your baby.
- Let your baby explore inside and outside the home. Be with her to keep her safe and feeling secure.
- Be realistic about her abilities at this age.
- Recognize that your baby is eager to interact with other people but will also be anxious when separated from you. Crying when you leave is normal. Stay calm.
- Support your baby's learning by giving her baby balls, toys that roll, blocks, and containers to play with.
- Help your baby when she needs it.
- Talk, sing, and read daily.
- Don't allow your baby to watch TV or use computers, tablets, or smartphones.
- Consider making a family media plan. It helps you make rules for media use and balance screen time with other activities, including exercise.

✓ DISCIPLINE

- Tell your baby in a nice way what to do ("Time to eat"), rather than what not to do.
- Be consistent.
- Use distraction at this age. Sometimes you can change what your baby is doing by offering something else such as a favorite toy.
- Do things the way you want your baby to do them—you are your baby's role model.
- Use "No!" only when your baby is going to get hurt or hurt others.

Helpful Resources: National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233 | Family Media Use Plan: www.healthychildren.org/MediaUsePlan
Poison Help Line: 800-222-1222 | Information About Car Safety Seats: www.safercar.gov/parents | Toll-free Auto Safety Hotline: 888-327-4236