

Children's Health & Safety

# Breastfeeding Policy

## Our Vision.

To give every child **the best start in life.**

## Our Mission.

To deliver high quality childcare and exciting learning opportunities for every child, giving them a head start as they prepare for school.

## Our Values.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Care</b>    | We take care of the children entrusted to us and our dedicated staff. All are appreciated and diversity is valued. |
| <b>Quality</b> | We maintain the highest standards in care and safety and provide exceptional early years education.                |
| <b>Service</b> | We provide exceptional service and are integral to supporting parents bringing up children.                        |
| <b>Value</b>   | We provide outstanding value for our families.   |



Busy Bees Early Learning Australia recognises that Families have the right to decide whether they will breastfeed their infant while they are in care, and each Families decision will be accepted and respected.

### NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2 – Children's Health and Safety	
2.1 - Health	2.1.2 – Health Practices and Procedures
	2.1.3 – Healthy Lifestyle
2.2 - Safety	2.2.1 - Supervision
QUALITY AREA 4 – Staffing Arrangements	
4.2 – Professionalism	4.2.2 – Professional Standards

### EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND REGULATIONS

Part 6	Operating an Education and Care Service (Law – 165, 167)
Part 4.2	Children's Health and Safety (Reg – 77, 78)
Part 4.7	Governance and Leadership (Reg – 168)

### RELATED POLICIES

Bottle Preparation and Safety Policy	Nutrition and Food Safety Policy
Health and Hygiene Policy	Sleep and rest Policy

## PURPOSE

Busy Bees Early Learning Australia recognises the importance of breast milk for the developing infant and aims to ensure that all Families and employees are aware of our commitment in supporting mothers to continue to provide their child with breast milk whilst at the Service.

## SCOPE

Children, Staff, Management, Visitors and Families

## POLICY

Busy Bees Early Learning Australia is supportive of breastfeeding mothers and will initiate discussions regarding breastfeeding during the enrolment and orientation process, whilst showing due respect and support to mothers who cannot, or do not wish to breast feed.

Breastfeeding mothers will be encouraged to continue breastfeeding, whether by providing expressed breast milk or visiting the Service to feed their child and should develop a Breastfeeding Plan in consultation with the Service that includes contingency plans if there is an instance where there may not be enough expressed breast milk on hand to meet the child's needs.

A private designated environment for breastfeeding and expressing breast milk will be provided in the Service. Mothers that will be returning to feed their child throughout the day should advise of the approximate feeding times on the child's Daily Information record.

Appropriate food safety and transportation methods will be communicated with Families. All bottles of expressed breast milk must be clearly labelled with the child's name and date the milk was expressed to ensure the correct baby is receiving the correct milk. All supplied milk must be refrigerated immediately and recorded on the Bottle Receipt. Proper hygiene practices will be implemented whilst handling breast milk, (as it is a bodily fluid), and needs to be carefully prepared, stored, and heated.

All Busy Bees employees will be familiar with this policy and relevant procedures and are offered appropriate training, if required, to ensure they are able to provide basic breastfeeding information, can refer mothers with any concerns to the appropriate resources, and manage situations where bottles may be refused.

### Heating Breast Milk and Bottles

Breast milk will not be warmed in the microwave and will only be warmed once. Any unused milk will be discarded after the feed and all unused milk will be sent home at the end of each day. We encourage families to provide multiple small quantities of breast milk to minimise possible wastage. Breast milk cannot be stored at the Service.

If using a bottle warmer, follow the relevant instructions per bottle warmer. If using a container of hot water (not boiling), stand the bottle until the milk reaches body heat. Test how warm the milk is by dropping a little onto your wrist. It's right when it feels warm. Microwaves are prohibited to use for warming bottles as they can easily overheat the milk and/or heat the milk unevenly.

### Administration of Incorrect Breastmilk Bottle

If an infant is fed another child's expressed breastmilk bottle, treat the incident as an accidental exposure to bodily fluid. An incident report will be completed following correct procedures, and both Families will be informed of the incident.

### Support for Employees who are Breastfeeding

The Service will make all reasonable efforts to support all employee's request to continue breastfeeding their child. Breastfeeding employees will be provided with a flexible schedule to allow for breastfeeding or expressing breast milk for their infant. Breastfeeding employees will be provided with a private, clean, and quiet place to breastfeed their infant or to express milk.

Breastfeeding employees who are working directly with children, and are being counted in ratio, will need to be replaced by another employee before they begin breastfeeding their own child. This is to ensure the safety and supervision needs of the other children in their direct care are being safely maintained.

### SOURCES

[ACECQA](#)

[National Quality Standard](#)

[Education and Care services National Regulations](#)

[Education and Care Service National Law Act 2010](#)

[Early Childhood Australia](#)

[Australian Breastfeeding Association](#)

[Australian Government department of Health](#)

[National Health and Medical Research Council](#)

[Get Up and Grow - Breastfeeding and returning to work](#)

### VERSION CONTROL

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years and/or in line with legislation and organisation requirements.

Version	Date	Owner	Responsibility	Change Description
1	01/10/2023	Chief Pedagogy & Safeguarding Officer	Policy Development Officer	Replace all previous versions

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