

Breast Milk Contents <sup>1-3</sup>	Formula Contents <sup>1</sup>
Thousands of ingredients	A few dozen ingredients
Needed minerals, vitamins	Subset of minerals and vitamins
Primarily lactose	Primarily cow milk protein
Fats	Fats (non-human)
Protein	Protein (non-human)
Water	Water
200 essential fatty acids	Synthetic DHA and ARA
Antibodies for local infectious agents	
Hormones for brain development and relationship building	
Anti-viruses	
Anti-allergies	
Anti-Parasites	
Growth factors	
Digestive enzymes	

### In babies, breast milk protects against:

- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome<sup>4-10</sup>
- High Blood Pressure<sup>11-13</sup>
- High Cholesterol<sup>14</sup>
- Cancer<sup>15,16</sup>
- Diabetes<sup>17-20</sup> and Obesity<sup>21-29</sup>
- Depression<sup>30</sup>
- Allergies<sup>31</sup>
- Ear infections<sup>32</sup>
- Dental problems<sup>33</sup>
- Respiratory problems<sup>34</sup>

### Benefits for Mothers

- Protects against breast and ovarian cancer<sup>35-41</sup>
- Reduces the risk of diabetes<sup>42,43</sup>
- Reduces pregnancy weight gain faster<sup>44,45</sup>
- Reduces depressive symptoms<sup>42, 47-48</sup>
- Encourages bonding with the baby<sup>42</sup>
- Encourages nighttime sleeping<sup>49-52</sup>

- Postpones ovulation<sup>53</sup>

### Breast milk builds the immune system properly.

Breast milk contains thousands of ingredients that build the child's immune system and prevent diseases and infections.<sup>1,2</sup> Breastmilk contains:

- Immunoglobulins that play a part in protecting infants from microorganisms. Colostrum contains high levels of Secretory IgA, an immunoglobulin that provides intestinal protection for young infants against poliovirus and harmful bacteria like *E. coli*.<sup>54</sup>
- Lymphoid cells that produce IgA and mediate cellular immunity<sup>54</sup>
- Leukocytes play a part in preventing infection in the infant's gastrointestinal tract<sup>55</sup>
- Lactoferrin binds the iron in germs that cause gastrointestinal infection, which stops their infectious action in the infant's gut<sup>56</sup>
- Appropriate levels of cholesterol and polyunsaturated fatty acids that are used in brain tissue development and myelination<sup>57</sup>

### Breast milk changes with the growing nutritional needs of the child.

Breastmilk contains all the nutrition a baby needs for development during the first six months of life<sup>3</sup> and provides additional nutrition and immune system protection throughout the process. Formula is inflexible, staying the same feeding after feeding whereas breastmilk changes:

- flavor with maternal diet, preparing the palate for a wide range of tastes<sup>58,59</sup>
- antibodies for local infectious agents<sup>54</sup>
- contents based on time of day<sup>60</sup>
- fat, protein content with needs of the growing child<sup>61</sup>

### Breastfeeding allows the child to regulate his own body and feedings.

A breastfeeding child develops strong facial muscles, which align jaws and teeth.<sup>62</sup>

### Best Practices for Hospitals

**Breastfeeding should be started as soon as possible after birth, even with cesareans.** During the first hour of life, babies' instincts prepare them to breastfeed.<sup>63,64</sup> Medical interventions like an epidural or a baby's physical or neurological difficulties can hinder babies' ability to latch onto the breast right away.<sup>65,66</sup> Even so, babies who have initial difficulties latching can learn to breastfeed efficiently in due time, especially with the help of a lactation consultant.<sup>67,68</sup>

**Continuous touch, even with dad, encourages breastfeeding.**<sup>69</sup> Feeding within the first hour of birth is extremely important for long-term breastfeeding success.<sup>70</sup> **When babies are taken away from their mothers during the crucial first hour, they are often fed formula.**<sup>71</sup>

**Breastfeeding on demand, even at night, right after the child is born helps to ensure that mothers will not run out of milk later.**<sup>51</sup> Over 95% of women are physiologically able to breastfeed. Mothers' breast milk actually adapts in both quantity and quality to the changing nutritional needs of the child.<sup>60,61</sup>

**Frequent feeding is vital.** Babies need to eat frequently to keep the body nourished during its rapid growth. Just like growing children, babies go through growth spurts, causing them to eat more or less frequently.<sup>61</sup> Frequent feedings signal the needs of the baby to the mother's body, which will produce what is needed.<sup>61</sup>

**Lack of support is the one of the top reasons that moms don't breastfeed.**<sup>73</sup> *Being neutral*

*about breastfeeding is a lack of support.*

### **Breastfeeding Exclusively**

Both the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) **recommend that mothers breastfeed exclusively for the first six months after birth.**<sup>74,75</sup> Breast milk supplies the vitamins, minerals, nutrition and hydration that babies need.<sup>74-76</sup> Formula populates the infant's gut with pathogenic bacteria.<sup>77</sup>

### **Breastfeeding Length**

It is normal and natural to breastfeed for longer than one year. The World Health Organization recommends breastfeeding for at least two years.<sup>75</sup> Even though the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that moms breastfeed for at least one year, only one in five women in the US are breastfeeding at all when their child is one year old.<sup>78</sup> Breast milk builds the child's immune system which does not reach adult functioning until age 6 or so. The health benefits the child gains through extended breastfeeding last a lifetime.<sup>3</sup>

### **Premature babies benefit from breastmilk**

Breastmilk is the best medicine for all babies, including premature babies.<sup>74,79</sup> A mother's milk is specially designed to nourish her premature child, preventing infections, even death.<sup>74, 79-85</sup>

### **Breastfeeding is correlated with:**

- Graduating from high school<sup>86-88</sup>
- Emotional stability and secure attachment<sup>30</sup>
- Positive mental health<sup>89,90</sup>
- Increased intelligence<sup>91-95</sup>
- Less substance abuse and addiction<sup>96</sup>
- Better health<sup>3</sup>

### **Lactation consultants have the knowledge and teaching skills to help moms and babies successfully breastfeed.**

Consultants can help moms navigate challenges that come and go.

### **How people undermine mothers' decisions about breastfeeding:**

- Acting as if formula and breastmilk are comparable
- Staying neutral about feeding choice decision
- Not informing pregnant women about the benefits and management of breastfeeding
- Using medical drug interventions during a normal birth
- Separating baby from mother right after birth
- Sending babies to nursery at night
- Not encouraging regular skin-to-skin contact and 24-hour mother-child togetherness
- Not collaborating with lactation support
- Not encouraging breastfeeding on demand
- Giving newborns infant formula, sugar water, or pacifiers
- Giving free samples of formula to moms who are uncertain or say they want to breastfeed
- Giving inaccurate information about prescription medication instead of using Thomas Hale's, *Medications and Mothers* <http://www.infantrisk.com/>



Local lactation consultant  
phone number: 574-647-3475  
*provided by St. Joseph County  
Breastfeeding Coalition*

For references see  
<http://www.nd.edu/~dnarvaez/Stone-age-parenting-breastfeeding.htm>

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# **Facts about FEEDING BABIES**

*for medical personnel*



## **What mothers feed their infants is very important for their child's lifetime health and well-being.**

There should be no question. The evidence is overwhelming regarding the quality difference between formula and breastfeeding. **Mother's milk, has thousands of ingredients to build the human brain, body and immune system.** Breast milk is incomparable with a man-made product of a couple dozen ingredients that are non-human and in wrong proportions<sup>1-3</sup>.

***Breastfeeding is normal, natural and  
necessary for optimal health.***