

# Virginia Child Care Licensing Standards Impacting Breastfeeding

## Licensed Child Day Centers (revised October 13, 2021)

### **8VAC20-780-420. Parental involvement.**

A. Before the child's first day of attending, parents shall be provided in writing the following:

12. Food policies;

E. Communication.

1. For each infant, the center shall post a daily record which can be easily accessed by both the parent and the staff working with the child. The record shall contain the following information:

b. The amount of food consumed and the time;

### **8VAC20-780-560. Nutrition and food services.**

G. When food is brought from home, the following shall apply:

1. The food container shall be sealed and clearly dated and labeled in a way that identifies the owner;

2. The center shall have extra food or shall have provisions to obtain food to serve to children so they can have an appropriate snack or meal if they forget to bring food from home, bring an inadequate meal or snack, or bring perishable food; and

3. Unused portions of opened food shall be discarded by the end of the day or returned to the parent.

### **8VAC20-780-570. Special feeding needs.**

A. High chairs, infant carrier seats, or feeding tables shall be used for children under 12 months who are not held while being fed.

1. Children using infant seats or high chairs shall be supervised during snacks and meals.

2. When a child is placed in an infant seat or high chair, the protective belt shall be fastened securely.

B. Bottle fed infants who cannot hold their own bottles shall be held when fed. Bottles shall not be propped or used while the child is in his designated sleeping location.

C. The record of each child on formula shall contain:

1. The brand of formula; and
  2. The child's feeding schedule.
- D. Infants shall be fed on demand or in accordance with parental instructions.
- E. Prepared infant formula shall be refrigerated, dated and labeled with the child's name.
- F. Heated formula and baby food shall be stirred or shaken and tested for temperature before serving to children.
- G. Milk, formula or breast milk shall not be heated or warmed directly in a microwave. Note: Water for warming milk, formula, or breast milk may be heated in a microwave.
- H. Prepared baby food not consumed during that feeding by an infant may be used by that same infant later in the same day, provided that the food is not served out of the baby jar and is dated and stored in the refrigerator; otherwise, it shall be discarded or returned to the parent at the end of the day. Formula or breast milk shall not remain unrefrigerated for more than two hours and may not be reheated.

## **Licensed Family Day Homes (revised July 1, 2021)**

### **22VAC40-111-960. Feeding Infants.**

- A. Infants shall be fed on demand unless the parent provides other written instructions.
- B. Infants who cannot hold their own bottles shall be picked up and held for bottle feeding. Bottles shall not be propped.
- C. High chairs, infant carrier seats, or feeding tables with safety waist and crotch straps fastened according to the manufacturer's instructions shall be used for children under 12 months of age who are not held while being fed.
- D. Infant formula shall be prepared according to the manufacturer's or physician's instructions.
- E. Bottles shall be refrigerated and labeled with the child's full name and the date, if more than one infant is in care.
- F. Refrigerated bottles of prepared formula and breast milk shall be discarded after 48 hours if not used.
- G. Bottles shall not be heated in a microwave oven.
- H. To avoid burns, heated formula and baby food shall be stirred or shaken and tested for temperature before being served to children.
- I. A child's mother shall be granted access to a private area of the family day home to facilitate breast feeding.

J. Solid foods shall:

1. Not be fed to infants less than four months of age without parental consent; and
2. Be fed with a spoon, with the exception of finger foods.

K. Baby food shall be served from a dish and not from the container.

L. Baby food remaining in:

1. A serving dish shall be discarded;
2. Opened containers, from which a portion has been removed, shall be refrigerated and labeled with the child's full name and the date, if more than one infant is in care; and
3. Opened containers stored in the refrigerator shall be discarded if not consumed within 24 hours of storage.