

Breastfeeding Policy

First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville CDC

Because breastfeeding has been shown to be the superior form of infant nutrition, providing a multitude of health benefits to both infant and mother, and because breastfeeding employees need ongoing support from childcare providers to provide their milk for their babies, our program subscribes to the following policy:

1. Breastfeeding mothers shall be provided a place to breastfeed or express their milk.

Breastfeeding mothers, including employees shall be provided a private and sanitary place to breastfeed their babies or express milk. This area provides an electrical outlet, comfortable chair, a curtain for privacy and nearby access to running water. In addition, there are several private areas containing couches, soft lighting and quiet settings throughout the facility should you wish to breastfeed outside of the classroom.

2. A refrigerator will be made available for storage of expressed breast milk.

Breastfeeding mothers and employees may store their expressed breast milk in the center refrigerator. Mothers should provide their own containers, clearly labeled with name and current date. The center will follow guidelines from Bright From The Start, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning to ensure that breast milk is stored and distributed properly and safely. Universal precautions are not required in handling human milk.

3. Sensitivity will be shown to breastfeeding mothers and their babies.

The childcare center is committed to providing ongoing support to breastfeeding mothers including providing an opportunity to breastfeed their baby in the morning and evening, and holding off giving a bottle, if possible, when mom is due to arrive. Artificial baby milks (formula) and solid foods will not be provided unless the mother has requested. Babies will be held closely when feeding and bottles will never be propped.

4. Staff shall be trained in handling human milk.

All childcare center staff will be trained in the proper storage and handling of human milk, as well as ways to support breastfeeding mothers.

5. Breastfeeding employees shall be provided flexible breaks to accommodate breastfeeding or milk expression.

Breastfeeding employees shall be provided a flexible schedule for breastfeeding or pumping to provide breast milk for their children. The time allowed would not exceed the normal time allowed for lunch and breaks. For time above and beyond normal lunch and breaks, sick/annual leave must be used, or the employee can come in a little earlier or leave a little late to make up the time.

6. Breastfeeding promotion information will be displayed.

The center will provide information on breastfeeding, including the names of area resources should questions or problems arise. In addition, positive promotion of breastfeeding will be on display in the center.