

Well Child Care at 6 Months

HEALTH ISSUES

- Breastfeed or use an iron fortified formula.
- Supervise all feedings. Do not put bottle in bed with baby or prop the bottle in baby's mouth.
- Introduce a sipping cup for water or juice (less than 6 oz per day).
- Do not give baby honey.
- Introduce solid foods at if you haven't yet (cereal first, then others; 2-3 meals per day).
- Do not put cereal in bottle, rather spoon feed baby.
- Know how to use a thermometer to take a rectal temperature.
- Do not over-bundle baby. A simple rule is to add one layer (like a blanket) for baby to whatever seems comfortable for you (if a T-shirt is comfortable for you, have baby wear a T-shirt PLUS one layer).
- Avoid direct sun exposure. If necessary, use a sunblock SPF 15-30.
- Ask your pediatrician if fluoride should be started.
- Use a vitamin supplement (Vitamins A, D, E, K) recommended by your pediatrician if you are exclusivel breastfeeding.

SAFETY ISSUES

- Continue safe car seat use. Read instructions for proper installation.
- Place baby on his or her BACK for sleeping.
- Always keep a hand on your baby when lying on a changing table, bed or sofa.
- Turn the hot water heater in your home down so the hottest water you can get from the faucet is 120 degrees.
- Install and test your smoke detector in or near your baby's room.
- Childproof your home (poisons, medicines, guns, plastic bags, sharp objects, cords, outlets, cigarettes, hot liquids, latches on cabinets).
- If you haven't yet, purchase a bottle of Activated Charcoal to have on hand in case of ingestion of a poison.

Fever > 101°

Acetaminophen
15 mg/kg or 1 dropperful
every 6 hours as needed

or

Ibuprofen (not Aspirin)
10 mg/kg every 6 hours
as needed

Congestion

Saline nose drops, suc-
tion with bulb syringe

Important Numbers

Poison Control
1-800-222-1222

Call us if your child...

- Has a fever that persists for more than 48 hours
- Has trouble breathing
- Is vomiting for more than 24 hours
- Is excessively sleepy or lethargic
- Has persistent abdominal pain
- Has bloody stool or urine

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- Do not use baby walkers. They are associated with serious injuries. The only acceptable substitute is a non-moving play station that baby can sit in.
- Avoid choke hazards (peanuts, popcorn, hard candy, whole grapes, raisins, carrot sticks, small toy pieces).

YOUR BABY SHOULD...

- Possibly be saying “dada” or “mama”; babble back to you.
- Roll over; have good head control when pulled to sit; sit with assistance; bear weight.
- Transfer objects from one hand to another, often putting objects in mouth.
- Laugh, squeal, and turn to noises.
- Get his or her first tooth within next 6 months (if not already).
- Have bowel movements at least once every 3 days if formula fed, once every week if breastfed.

YOU SHOULD...

- Hold, cuddle and rock baby.
- Talk and sing regularly to baby.
- Continue to read books to baby.
- Play pat-a-cake and peekaboo with baby.
- Use distraction as a discipline tool.
- Limit the number of rules, but be consistent with them.
- Have a bedtime routine and put baby to bed awake.
- Offer comfort objects (stuffed animals, blanket).
- Spend time alone with your spouse. One of the best thing you can do for your baby is to maintain a quality relationship with your spouse.