

## **Bright Futures Parent Handout: 1 Month Visit**

### **How Your Family is Doing**

- If you are worried about your living or food situation, talk with us. Community agencies and programs such as WIC and SNAP can also provide information and assistance.
- Ask us for help if you have been hurt by your partner or another important person in your life. Hotlines and community agencies can also provide confidential help.
- Tobacco-free spaces keep children healthy. Don't smoke or use e-cigarettes. Keep your home and car smoke-free.
- Don't use alcohol or drugs.
- Check your home for mold and radon. Avoid using pesticides.

### **Feeding Your Baby**

- Feed your baby only breast milk or iron-fortified formula until she is about 6 months old.
- Avoid feeding your baby solid foods, juice, and water until she is about 6 months old.
- Feed your baby when she is hungry. Look for her to
  - Put her hand to her mouth.
  - Suck or root.
  - Fuss.
- Stop feeding when you see your baby is full. You can tell when she
  - Turns away
  - Closes her mouth
  - Relaxes her arms and hands
- Know that your baby is getting enough to eat if she has more than 5 wet diapers and at least 3 soft stools each day and is gaining weight appropriately.
- Burp your baby during natural feeding breaks.
- Hold your baby so you can look at each other when you feed her.
- Always hold the bottle. Never prop it.

### **If Breastfeeding**

- Feed your baby on demand generally every 1 to 3 hours during the day and every 3 hours at night.

- Give your baby vitamin D drops (400 IU a day).
- Continue to take your prenatal vitamin with iron.
- Eat a healthy diet.

### **If Formula Feeding**

- Always prepare, heat, and store formula safely. If you need help, ask us.
- Feed your baby 24 to 27 oz of formula a day. If your baby is still hungry, you can feed her more.

### **How You are Feeling**

- Take care of yourself so you have the energy to care for your baby. Remember to go for your post-birth checkup.
- If you feel sad or very tired for more than a few days, let us know or call someone you trust for help.
- Find time for yourself and your partner.

### **Caring for Your Baby**

- Hold and cuddle your baby often.
- Enjoy playtime with your baby. Put him on his tummy for a few minutes at a time when he is awake.
- Never leave him alone on his tummy or use tummy time for sleep.
- When your baby is crying, comfort him by talking to, patting, stroking, and rocking him. Consider offering him a pacifier.
- Never hit or shake your baby.
- Take his temperature rectally, not by ear or skin. A fever is a rectal temperature of 100.4°F/38.0°C or higher. Call our office if you have any questions or concerns.
- Wash your hands often.

### **Safety**

- Use a rear-facing–only car safety seat in the back seat of all vehicles.
- Never put your baby in the front seat of a vehicle that has a passenger airbag.
- Make sure your baby always stays in her car safety seat during travel. If she becomes fussy or needs to feed, stop the vehicle and take her out of her seat.

- Your baby's safety depends on you. Always wear your lap and shoulder seat belt. Never drive after drinking alcohol or using drugs. Never text or use a cell phone while driving.
- Always put your baby to sleep on her back in her own crib, not in your bed.
  - Your baby should sleep in your room until she is at least 6 months old.
  - Make sure your baby's crib or sleep surface meets the most recent safety guidelines.
  - Don't put soft objects and loose bedding such as blankets, pillows, bumper pads, and toys in the crib.
- Swaddling should be used only with babies younger than 2 months.
- If you choose to use a mesh playpen, get one made after February 28, 2013.
- Keep hanging cords or strings away from your baby. Don't let your baby wear necklaces or bracelets.
- Always keep a hand on your baby when changing diapers or clothing on a changing table, couch, or bed.
- Learn infant CPR. Know emergency numbers. Prepare for disasters or other unexpected events by having an emergency plan.

## **Bright Futures Parent Handout: 2 Month Visit**

### How Your Family is Doing

- If you are worried about your living or food situation, talk with us. Community agencies and programs such as WIC and SNAP can also provide information and assistance.
- Find ways to spend time with your partner. Keep in touch with family and friends.
- Find safe, loving child care for your baby. You can ask us for help.
- Know that it is normal to feel sad about leaving your baby with a caregiver or putting him into child care.

### Feeding Your Baby

- Feed your baby only breast milk or iron-fortified formula until she is about 6 months old.
- Avoid feeding your baby solid foods, juice, and water until she is about 6 months old.
- Feed your baby when you see signs of hunger. Look for her to

- Put her hand to her mouth.
- Suck, root, and fuss.
- Stop feeding when you see signs your baby is full. You can tell when she
  - Turns away
  - Closes her mouth
  - Relaxes her arms and hands
  - Burp your baby during natural feeding breaks.

### **If Breastfeeding**

- Feed your baby on demand. Expect to breastfeed 8 to 12 times in 24 hours.
- Give your baby vitamin D drops (400 IU a day).
- Continue to take your prenatal vitamin with iron.
- Eat a healthy diet.
- Plan for pumping and storing breast milk. Let us know if you need help.
  - If you pump, be sure to store your milk properly so it stays safe for your baby. If you have questions, ask us.

### **If Formula Feeding**

- Feed your baby on demand. Expect her to eat about 6 to 8 times each day, or 26 to 28 oz of formula per day.
- Make sure to prepare, heat, and store the formula safely. If you need help, ask us.
- Hold your baby so you can look at each other when you feed her.
- Always hold the bottle. Never prop it.

### **How You are Feeling**

- Take care of yourself so you have the energy to care for your baby.
- Talk with me or call for help if you feel sad or very tired for more than a few days.
- Find small but safe ways for your other children to help with the baby, such as bringing you things you need or holding the baby's hand.
- Spend special time with each child reading, talking, and doing things together.

### **Your Growing Baby**

- Have simple routines each day for bathing, feeding, sleeping, and playing.
- Hold, talk to, cuddle, read to, sing to, and play often with your baby. This helps you connect with and relate to your baby.
- Learn what your baby does and does not like.
- Develop a schedule for naps and bedtime. Put him to bed awake but drowsy so he learns to fall asleep on his own.
- Don't have a TV on in the background or use a TV or other digital media to calm your baby.

- Put your baby on his tummy for short periods of playtime. Don't leave him alone during tummy time or allow him to sleep on his tummy.
- Notice what helps calm your baby, such as a pacifier, his fingers, or his thumb. Stroking, talking, rocking, or going for walks may also work.
- Never hit or shake your baby.

## Safety

- Use a rear-facing–only car safety seat in the back seat of all vehicles.
- Never put your baby in the front seat of a vehicle that has a passenger airbag.
- Your baby's safety depends on you. Always wear your lap and shoulder seat belt. Never drive after drinking alcohol or using drugs. Never text or use a cell phone while driving.
- Always put your baby to sleep on her back in her own crib, not your bed.
  - Your baby should sleep in your room until she is at least 6 months old.
  - Make sure your baby's crib or sleep surface meets the most recent safety guidelines.
- If you choose to use a mesh playpen, get one made after February 28, 2013.
- Swaddling should not be used after 2 months of age.
- Prevent scalds or burns. Don't drink hot liquids while holding your baby.
- Prevent tap water burns. Set the water heater so the temperature at the faucet is at or below 120°F /49°C.
- Keep a hand on your baby when dressing or changing her on a changing table, couch, or bed.
- Never leave your baby alone in bathwater, even in a bath seat or ring.

## Bright Futures Parent Handout: 4 Month Visit

### How Your Family is Doing

- Learn if your home or drinking water has lead and take steps to get rid of it. Lead is toxic for everyone.
- Take time for yourself and with your partner. Spend time with family and friends.
- Choose a mature, trained, and responsible babysitter or caregiver.
- You can talk with us about your child care choices.

### Feeding Your Baby

- For babies at 4 months of age, breast milk or iron-fortified formula remains the best food. Solid foods are discouraged until about 6 months of age.

- Avoid feeding your baby too much by following the baby's signs of fullness, such as
  - Leaning back
  - Turning away

### **If Breastfeeding**

- Providing only breast milk for your baby for about the first 6 months after birth provides ideal nutrition. It supports the best possible growth and development.
- Be proud of yourself if you are still breastfeeding. Continue as long as you and your baby want.
- Know that babies this age go through growth spurts. They may want to breastfeed more often and that is normal.
- If you pump, be sure to store your milk properly so it stays safe for your baby. We can give you more information.
- Give your baby vitamin D drops (400 IU a day).
- Tell us if you are taking any medications, supplements, or herbal preparations.

### **If Formula Feeding**

- Make sure to prepare, heat, and store the formula safely.
- Feed on demand. Expect him to eat about 30 to 32 oz daily.
- Hold your baby so you can look at each other when you feed him.
- Always hold the bottle. Never prop it.
- Don't give your baby a bottle while he is in a crib.

### **Your Changing Baby**

- Create routines for feeding, nap time, and bedtime.
- Calm your baby with soothing and gentle touches when she is fussy.
- Make time for quiet play.
  - Hold your baby and talk with her.
  - Read to your baby often.
- Encourage active play.
  - Offer floor gyms and colorful toys to hold.
  - Put your baby on her tummy for playtime. Don't leave her alone during tummy time or allow her to sleep on her tummy.
- Don't have a TV on in the background or use a TV or other digital media to calm your baby.

### **Healthy Teeth**

- Go to your own dentist twice yearly. It is important to keep your teeth healthy so you don't pass bacteria that cause cavities on to your baby.

- Don't share spoons with your baby or use your mouth to clean the baby's pacifier.
- Use a cold teething ring if your baby's gums are sore from teething.
- Don't put your baby in a crib with a bottle.
- Clean your baby's gums and teeth (as soon as you see the first tooth) 2 times per day with a soft cloth or soft toothbrush and a small smear of fluoride toothpaste (no more than a grain of rice).

## Safety

- Use a rear-facing-only car safety seat in the back seat of all vehicles.
- Never put your baby in the front seat of a vehicle that has a passenger airbag.
- Your baby's safety depends on you. Always wear your lap and shoulder seat belt.
- Never drive after drinking alcohol or using drugs. Never text or use a cell phone while driving.
- Always put your baby to sleep on her back in her own crib, not in your bed.
  - Your baby should sleep in your room until she is at least 6 months of age.
  - Make sure your baby's crib or sleep surface meets the most recent safety guidelines.
  - Don't put soft objects and loose bedding such as blankets, pillows, bumper pads, and toys in the crib.
- Drop-side cribs should not be used.
- Lower the crib mattress.
- If you choose to use a mesh playpen, get one made after February 28, 2013.
- Prevent tap water burns. Set the water heater so the temperature at the faucet is at or below 120°F /49°C.
- Prevent scalds or burns. Don't drink hot drinks when holding your baby.
- Keep a hand on your baby on any surface from which she might fall and get hurt, such as a changing table, couch, or bed.
- Never leave your baby alone in bathwater, even in a bath seat or ring.
- Keep small objects, small toys, and latex balloons away from your baby.
- Don't use a baby walker.

## **Bright Futures Parent Handout: 6 Month Visit**

### How Your Family is Doing

- If you are worried about your living or food situation, talk with us. Community agencies and programs such as WIC and SNAP can also provide information and assistance.

- Don't smoke or use e-cigarettes. Keep your home and car smoke-free. Tobacco-free spaces keep children healthy.
- Don't use alcohol or drugs.
- Choose a mature, trained, and responsible babysitter or caregiver.
- Ask us questions about child care programs.
- Talk with us or call for help if you feel sad or very tired for more than a few days.
- Spend time with family and friends.

### Your Baby's Development

- Place your baby so she is sitting up and can look around.
- Talk with your baby by copying the sounds she makes.
- Look at and read books together.
- Play games such as peekaboo, patty-cake, and so big.
- Don't have a TV on in the background or use a TV or other digital media to calm your baby.
- If your baby is fussy, give her safe toys to hold and put into her mouth. Make sure she is getting regular naps and playtimes.

### Feeding Your Baby

- Know that your baby's growth will slow down.
- Be proud of yourself if you are still breastfeeding. Continue as long as you and your baby want.
- Use an iron-fortified formula if you are formula feeding.
- Begin to feed your baby solid food when he is ready.
- Look for signs your baby is ready for solids. He will
  - Open his mouth for the spoon.
  - Sit with support.
  - Show good head and neck control.
  - Be interested in foods you eat.

### Starting New Foods

- Introduce one new food at a time.
- Use foods with good sources of iron and zinc, such as
  - Iron- and zinc-fortified cereal
  - Pureed red meat, such as beef or lamb
- Introduce fruits and vegetables after your baby eats iron- and zinc-fortified cereal or pureed meat well.
- Offer solid food 2 to 3 times per day; let him decide how much to eat.
- Avoid raw honey or large chunks of food that could cause choking.



- Consider introducing all other foods, including eggs and peanut butter, because research shows they may actually prevent individual food allergies.
- To prevent choking, give your baby only very soft, small bites of finger foods.
- Wash fruits and vegetables before serving.
- Introduce your baby to a cup with water, breast milk, or formula.
- Avoid feeding your baby too much; follow baby's signs of fullness, such as
  - Leaning back
  - Turning away
- Don't force your baby to eat or finish foods.
  - It may take 10 to 15 times of offering your baby a type of food to try before he likes it.

### Healthy Teeth

- Ask us about the need for fluoride.
- Clean gums and teeth (as soon as you see the first tooth) 2 times per day with a soft cloth or soft toothbrush and a small smear of fluoride toothpaste (no more than a grain of rice).
- Don't give your baby a bottle in the crib. Never prop the bottle.
- Don't use foods or juices that your baby sucks out of a pouch.
- Don't share spoons or clean the pacifier in your mouth.

### What to Expect at Your Baby's 9 Month Visit

#### **We will talk about**

- Caring for your baby, your family, and yourself
- Teaching and playing with your baby
- Disciplining your baby
- Introducing new foods and establishing a routine
- Keeping your baby safe at home and in the car

### Safety

- Use a rear-facing-only car safety seat in the back seat of all vehicles.
- Never put your baby in the front seat of a vehicle that has a passenger airbag.
- If your baby has reached the maximum height/weight allowed with your rear-facing-only car seat, you can use an approved convertible or 3-in-1 seat in the rear-facing position.
- Put your baby to sleep on her back.
- Choose crib with slats no more than 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches apart.
  - Lower the crib mattress all the way.
- Don't use a drop-side crib.

- Don't put soft objects and loose bedding such as blankets, pillows, bumper pads, and toys in the crib.
- If you choose to use a mesh playpen, get one made after February 28, 2013.
- Do a home safety check (stair gates, barriers around space heaters, and covered electrical outlets).
- Don't leave your baby alone in the tub, near water, or in high places such as changing tables, beds, and sofas.
- Keep poisons, medicines, and cleaning supplies locked and out of your baby's sight and reach.
- Put the Poison Help line number into all phones, including cell phones. Call us if you are worried your baby has swallowed something harmful.
- Keep your baby in a high chair or playpen while you are in the kitchen.
- Do not use a baby walker.
- Keep small objects, cords, and latex balloons away from your baby.
- Keep your baby out of the sun. When you do go out, put a hat on your baby and apply sunscreen with SPF of 15 or higher on her exposed skin.

## **Bright Futures Parent Handout: 9 Month Visit**

### How Your Family is Doing

- If you feel unsafe in your home or have been hurt by someone, let us know. Hotlines and community agencies can also provide confidential help.
- Keep in touch with friends and family.
- Invite friends over or join a parent group.
- Take time for yourself and with your partner.

### Your Changing and Developing Baby

- Keep daily routines for your baby.
- Let your baby explore inside and outside the home. Be with her to keep her safe and feeling secure.
- Be realistic about her abilities at this age.
- Recognize that your baby is eager to interact with other people but will also be anxious when separated from you. Crying when you leave is normal. Stay calm.
- Support your baby's learning by giving her baby balls, toys that roll, blocks, and containers to play with.
- Help your baby when she needs it.
- Talk, sing, and read daily.
- Don't allow your baby to watch TV or use computers, tablets, or smartphones.

- Consider making a family media plan. It helps you make rules for media use and balance screen time with other activities, including exercise.

## Discipline

- Tell your baby in a nice way what to do (“Time to eat”), rather than what not to do.
- Be consistent.
- Use distraction at this age. Sometimes you can change what your baby is doing by offering something else such as a favorite toy.
- Do things the way you want your baby to do them—you are your baby’s role model.
- Use “No!” only when your baby is going to get hurt or hurt others.

## Feeding Your Baby

- Be patient with your baby as he learns to eat without help.
- Know that messy eating is normal.
- Emphasize healthy foods for your baby. Give him 3 meals and 2 to 3 snacks each day.
- Start giving more table foods. No foods need to be withheld except for raw honey and large chunks that can cause choking.
- Vary the thickness and lumpiness of your baby’s food.
- Don’t give your baby soft drinks, tea, coffee, and flavored drinks.
- Avoid feeding your baby too much. Let him decide when he is full and wants to stop eating.
- Keep trying new foods. Babies may say no to a food 10 to 15 times before they try it.
- Help your baby learn to use a cup.
- Continue to breastfeed as long as you can and your baby wishes. Talk with us if you have concerns about weaning.
- Continue to offer breast milk or iron-fortified formula until 1 year of age. Don’t switch to cow’s milk until then.

## Safety

- Use a rear-facing–only car safety seat in the back seat of all vehicles.
- Have your baby’s car safety seat rear facing until she reaches the highest weight or height allowed by the car safety seat’s manufacturer. In most cases, this will be well past the second birthday.
- Never put your baby in the front seat of a vehicle that has a passenger airbag.
- Your baby’s safety depends on you. Always wear your lap and shoulder seat belt. Never drive after drinking alcohol or using drugs. Never text or use a cell phone while driving.

- Never leave your baby alone in the car. Start habits that prevent you from ever forgetting your baby in the car, such as putting your cell phone in the back seat.
- If it is necessary to keep a gun in your home, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately.
- Place gates at the top and bottom of stairs.
- Don't leave heavy or hot things on tablecloths that your baby could pull over.
- Put barriers around space heaters and keep electrical cords out of your baby's reach.
- Never leave your baby alone in or near water, even in a bath seat or ring. Be within arm's reach at all times.
- Keep poisons, medications, and cleaning supplies locked up and out of your baby's sight and reach.
- Put the Poison Help line number into all phones, including cell phones. Call if you are worried your baby has swallowed something harmful.
- Install operable window guards on windows at the second story and higher. Operable means that, in an emergency, an adult can open the window.
- Keep furniture away from windows.
- Keep your baby in a high chair or playpen when in the kitchen.

## **Bright Futures Parent Handout: 18 Month Visit**

### Your Child's Behavior

- Expect your child to cling to you in new situations or to be anxious around strangers.
- Play with your child each day by doing things she likes.
- Be consistent in discipline and setting limits for your child.
- Plan ahead for difficult situations and try things that can make them easier. Think about your day and your child's energy and mood.
- Wait until your child is ready for toilet training. Signs of being ready for toilet training include
  - Staying dry for 2 hours
  - Knowing if she is wet or dry
  - Can pull pants down and up
  - Wanting to learn
  - Can tell you if she is going to have a bowel movement
- Read books about toilet training with your child.
- Praise sitting on the potty or toilet.

- If you are expecting a new baby, you can read books about being a big brother or sister.
- Recognize what your child is able to do. Don't ask her to do things she is not ready to do at this age.

### Your Child and TV

- Do activities with your child such as reading, playing games, and singing.
- Be active together as a family. Make sure your child is active at home, in child care, and with sitters.
- If you choose to introduce media now,
  - Choose high-quality programs and apps.
  - Use them together.
  - Limit viewing to 1 hour or less each day.
- Avoid using TV, tablets, or smartphones to keep your child busy.
- Be aware of how much media you use.

### Talking and Hearing

- Read and sing to your child often.
- Talk about and describe pictures in books.
- Use simple words with your child.
- Suggest words that describe emotions to help your child learn the language of feelings.
- Ask your child simple questions, offer praise for answers, and explain simply.
- Use simple, clear words to tell your child what you want him to do.

### Healthy Eating

- Offer your child a variety of healthy foods and snacks, especially vegetables, fruits, and lean protein.
- Give one bigger meal and a few smaller snacks or meals each day.
- Let your child decide how much to eat.
- Give your child 16 to 24 oz of milk each day.
- Know that you don't need to give your child juice. If you do, don't give more than 4 oz a day of 100% juice and serve it with meals.
- Give your toddler many chances to try a new food. Allow her to touch and put new food into her mouth so she can learn about them.

### Safety

- Make sure your child's car safety seat is rear facing until he reaches the highest weight or height allowed by the car safety seat's manufacturer. This will probably be after the second birthday.

- Never put your child in the front seat of a vehicle that has a passenger airbag. The back seat is the safest.
- Everyone should wear a seat belt in the car.
- Keep poisons, medicines, and lawn and cleaning supplies in locked cabinets, out of your child's sight and reach.
- Put the Poison Help number into all phones, including cell phones. Call if you are worried your child has swallowed something harmful. Do not make your child vomit.
- When you go out, put a hat on your child, have him wear sun protection clothing, and apply sunscreen with SPF of 15 or higher on his exposed skin. Limit time outside when the sun is strongest (11:00 am–3:00 pm).
- If it is necessary to keep a gun in your home, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately.

## **Bright Futures Parent Handout: 2 Year Visit**

### How Your Family is Doing

- Take time for yourself and your partner.
- Stay in touch with friends.
- Make time for family activities. Spend time with each child.
- Teach your child not to hit, bite, or hurt other people. Be a role model.
- If you feel unsafe in your home or have been hurt by someone, let us know. Hotlines and community resources can also provide confidential help.
- Don't smoke or use e-cigarettes. Keep your home and car smoke-free. Tobacco-free spaces keep children healthy.
- Don't use alcohol or drugs.
- Accept help from family and friends.
- If you are worried about your living or food situation, reach out for help. Community agencies and programs such as WIC and SNAP can provide information and assistance.

### Your Child's Behavior

- Praise your child when he does what you ask him to do.
- Listen to and respect your child. Expect others to do as well.
- Help your child talk about his feelings.
- Watch how he responds to new people or situations.
- Read, talk, sing, and explore together. These activities are the best ways to help toddlers learn.

- Limit TV, tablet, or smartphone use to no more than 1 hour of high-quality programs each day.
  - It is better for toddlers to play than to watch TV.
  - Encourage your child to play for up to 60 minutes a day.
- Avoid TV during meals. Talk together instead.

### Talking and Your Child

- Use clear, simple language with your child. Don't use baby talk.
- Talk slowly and remember that it may take a while for your child to respond. Your child should be able to follow simple instructions.
- Read to your child every day. Your child may love hearing the same story over and over.
- Talk about and describe pictures in books.
- Talk about the things you see and hear when you are together.
- Ask your child to point to things as you read.
- Stop a story to let your child make an animal sound or finish a part of the story.

### Toilet Training

- Begin toilet training when your child is ready. Signs of being ready for toilet training include
  - Staying dry for 2 hours
  - Knowing if she is wet or dry
  - Can pull pants down and up
  - Wanting to learn
  - Can tell you if she is going to have a bowel movement
- Plan for toilet breaks often. Children use the toilet as many as 10 times each day.
- Teach your child to wash her hands after using the toilet.
- Clean potty-chairs after every use.
- Take the child to choose underwear when she feels ready to do so.

### Safety

- Make sure your child's car safety seat is rear facing until he reaches the highest weight or height allowed by the car safety seat's manufacturer. Once your child reaches these limits, it is time to switch the seat to the forward-facing position.
- Make sure the car safety seat is installed correctly in the back seat. The harness straps should be snug against your child's chest.
- Children watch what you do. Everyone should wear a lap and shoulder seat belt in the car.
- Never leave your child alone in your home or yard, especially near cars or machinery, without a responsible adult in charge.

- When backing out of the garage or driving in the driveway, have another adult hold your child a safe distance away so he is not in the path of your car.
- Have your child wear a helmet that fits properly when riding bikes and trikes.
- If it is necessary to keep a gun in your home, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately.

## **Bright Futures Parent Handout: 2½ Year Visit**

### Family Routines

- Enjoy meals together as a family and always include your child.
- Have quiet evening and bedtime routines.
- Visit zoos, museums, and other places that help your child learn.
- Be active together as a family.
- Stay in touch with your friends. Do things outside your family.
- Make sure you agree within your family on how to support your child's growing independence, while maintaining consistent limits.

### Learning to Talk and Communicate

- Read books together every day. Reading aloud will help your child get ready for preschool.
- Take your child to the library and story times.
- Listen to your child carefully and repeat what she says using correct grammar.
- Give your child extra time to answer questions.
- Be patient. Your child may ask to read the same book again and again.

### Getting Along with Others

- Give your child chances to play with other toddlers. Supervise closely because your child may not be ready to share or play cooperatively.
- Offer your child and his friend multiple items that they may like. Children need choices to avoid battles.
- Give your child choices between 2 items your child prefers. More than 2 is too much for your child.
- Limit TV, tablet, or smartphone use to no more than 1 hour of high-quality programs each day. Be aware of what your child is watching.
- Consider making a family media plan. It helps you make rules for media use and balance screen time with other activities, including exercise.

### Getting Ready for Preschool



- Think about preschool or group child care for your child. If you need help selecting a program, we can give you information and resources.
- Visit a teachers' store or bookstore to look for books about preparing your child for school.
- Join a playgroup or make playdates.
- Make toilet training easier.
  - Dress your child in clothing that can easily be removed.
  - Place your child on the toilet every 1 to 2 hours.
  - Praise your child when he is successful.
- Try to develop a potty routine.
- Create a relaxed environment by reading or singing on the potty.

### Safety

- Make sure the car safety seat is installed correctly in the back seat. Keep the seat rear facing until your child reaches the highest weight or height allowed by the manufacturer. The harness straps should be snug against your child's chest.
- Everyone should wear a lap and shoulder seat belt in the car. Don't start the vehicle until everyone is buckled up.
- Never leave your child alone inside or outside your home, especially near cars or machinery.
- Have your child wear a helmet that fits properly when riding bikes and trikes or in a seat on adult bikes.
- Keep your child within arm's reach when she is near or in water.
- Empty buckets, play pools, and tubs when you are finished using them.
- When you go out, put a hat on your child, have her wear sun protection clothing, and apply sunscreen with SPF of 15 or higher on her exposed skin. Limit time outside when the sun is strongest (11:00 am–3:00 pm).
- Have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every floor. Test them every month and change the batteries every year. Make a family escape plan in case of fire in your home.

## **Bright Futures Parent Handout: 3 Year Visit**

### How Your Family is Doing

- Take time for yourself and to be with your partner.
- Stay connected to friends, their personal interests, and work.
- Have regular playtimes and mealtimes together as a family.
- Give your child hugs. Show your child how much you love him.

- Show your child how to handle anger well—time alone, respectful talk, or being active. Stop hitting, biting, and fighting right away.
- Give your child the chance to make choices.
- Don't smoke or use e-cigarettes. Keep your home and car smoke-free. Tobacco-free spaces keep children healthy.
- Don't use alcohol or drugs.
- If you are worried about your living or food situation, talk with us. Community agencies and programs such as WIC and SNAP can also provide information and assistance.

### Eating Healthy and Being Active

- Give your child 16 to 24 oz of milk every day.
- Limit juice. It is not necessary. If you choose to serve juice, give no more than 4 oz a day of 100% juice and always serve it with a meal.
- Let your child have cool water when she is thirsty.
- Offer a variety of healthy foods and snacks, especially vegetables, fruits, and lean protein.
- Let your child decide how much to eat.
- Be sure your child is active at home and in preschool or child care.
- Apart from sleeping, children should not be inactive for longer than 1 hour at a time.
- Be active together as a family.
- Limit TV, tablet, or smartphone use to no more than 1 hour of high-quality programs each day.
- Be aware of what your child is watching.
- Don't put a TV, computer, tablet, or smartphone in your child's bedroom.
- Consider making a family media plan. It helps you make rules for media use and balance screen time with other activities, including exercise.

### Playing with Others

- Give your child a variety of toys for dressing up, make-believe, and imitation.
- Make sure your child has the chance to play with other preschoolers often. Playing with children who are the same age helps get your child ready for school.
- Help your child learn to take turns while playing games with other children.

### Reading and Talking with Your Child

- Read books, sing songs, and play rhyming games with your child each day.
- Use books as a way to talk together. Reading together and talking about a book's story and pictures helps your child learn how to read.

- Look for ways to practice reading everywhere you go, such as stop signs, or labels and signs in the store.
- Ask your child questions about the story or pictures in books. Ask him to tell a part of the story.
- Ask your child specific questions about his day, friends, and activities.

## Safety

- Continue to use a car safety seat that is installed correctly in the back seat. The safest seat is one with a 5-point harness, not a booster seat.
- Prevent choking. Cut food into small pieces.
- Supervise all outdoor play, especially near streets and driveways.
- Never leave your child alone in the car, house, or yard.
- Keep your child within arm's reach when she is near or in water. She should always wear a life jacket when on a boat.
- Teach your child to ask if it is OK to pet a dog or another animal before touching it.
- If it is necessary to keep a gun in your home, store it unloaded and locked with the ammunition locked separately.
- Ask if there are guns in homes where your child plays. If so, make sure they are stored safely.

*The information contained in this handout should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances. Original handout included as part of the Bright Futures Tool and Resource Kit, 2nd Edition.*

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