

# Bottle Feeding Warming Policy & Procedure



<b>Policy Relevant to:</b>	All staff, Educators & families
<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	May 2020
<b>Next Review:</b>	May 2023
<b>NQF:</b>	107, 77
<b>NQS:</b>	2.1.3, 2.2.1

## Policy

Adventure Patch has a duty of care to ensure that all children attending our services are safe and their food and drinks are stored, handled, prepared and served in keeping with safety advice from recognised health and safety authorities.

## Procedure

- All staff be made aware of the risks involved in heating bottles.
- All bottles are to be stored in the fridge at all times until heating is to commence.
- Meet individual infants' needs. Feed each infant on an individual schedule and don't expect all babies to be hungry at the same time. Babies grow rapidly and hunger needs change quickly.
- Hold babies when you are feeding them. Holding infants during feeding helps them feel more safe and secure. Holding babies also reduces the risk of their choking on breast milk or formula.
- Do not give bottles to infants in their cribs.
- Never let infants or toddlers carry bottles. They can easily fall and injure themselves. Children who carry bottles may share sips with other children, which increases their risk of sharing infections.
- Literature is updated and distributed to staff as required to support 'best practice'.

## Safe Bottle Handling

- Label all infant bottles with the baby's name and date. Ask parents to label bottles before bringing them. Have labels and a marker on hand in case they forget.
- Store prepared bottles in the refrigerator. Store frozen breast milk in the freezer until feeding time and then thaw it in the refrigerator or under cool, running water.
- Wash your hands carefully with soap and water before preparing any bottle. Do not touch nipples with your fingers.
- Clean reusable bottles and nipples thoroughly after each use.
- Health authorities warn that a microwave should never be used to heat up a child's bottle as they heat unevenly and cause 'hotspots' that could seriously burn the child's mouth. Breast milk loses its antibodies if heated in the microwave.
- For health and safety reasons while bottles are heating in the containers they are placed in a sink or as far from all bench edges and work spaces as possible.
- Bottles are not to be re heated at any time.
- If bottles are not used after 30 minutes milk is to be discarded.



**Bottle Warming**

- Ensure there are no children in the kitchen areas.
- Using hot water, place bottles in the containers provided.
- Get the required bottle/bottles out of the fridge and place them in the containers in the sink area.
- After three minutes, shake the bottle to ensure even heat distribution. Check temperature by dropping a little of the milk onto your wrist. If not warm enough put the bottle back into the jug and check at one minute intervals until warm.

**Other Policies**

Nutrition Policy

Food Safety Policy

Workplace Health & Safety Policy

**Sources**

*Staying Health in Childcare Fifth edition*

