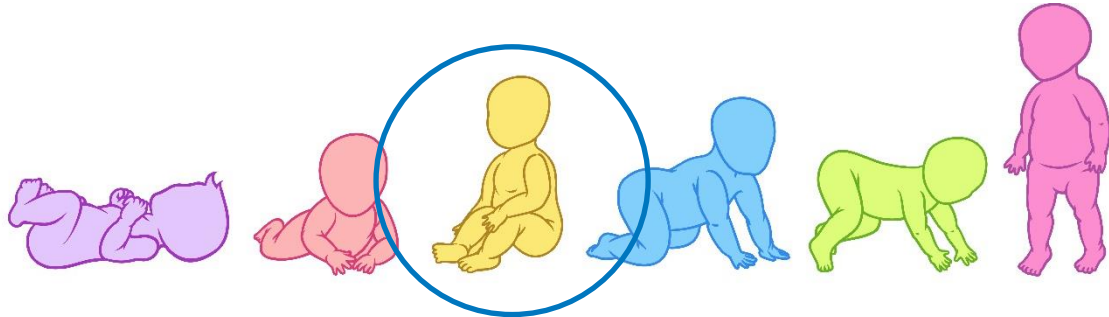




# Baby's first foods



When your infant is ready, **at around 6 months, but not before 4 months**, start to introduce a variety of solid foods, starting with iron rich foods, while continuing breastfeeding or using infant formula

## Signs that your baby is ready for solids



Puts hands and toys in their mouth



Can sit and hold their head up



Shows interest in food

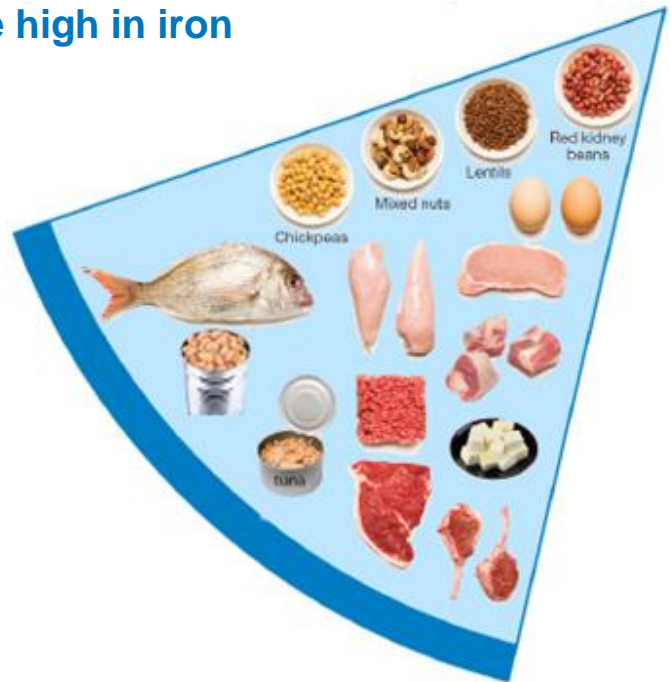


Stop bottles and formula when your baby is 12 months. Continue breastfeeding for as long as you wish, but your baby should also be eating a variety of food at 12 months.



Start with puree foods that are high in iron

Food
Beef
Lamb
Pork
Chicken
Fish
Seafood
Tofu, edamame



What other foods have iron?



Baked Beans



Legumes/pulses/  
beans, cooked



Leafy, green  
vegetables



Spinach



Almond or peanut  
puree/paste/powder







Eggs, well cooked

Your baby needs iron from 6 months to help their growth and development



Other important food to introduce

<p>Vegetables</p>	
<p>Fruit</p>	
<p>Grains and cereals</p>	
<p>Yoghurt and Cheese</p>	



## Save money by making home-made puree food

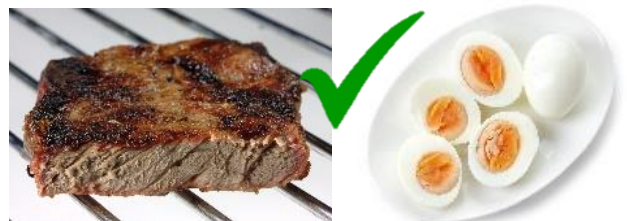


**Home-made food is healthier than pouches**



**Do not add honey, sugar or salt. Honey is not safe before 12 months.**

**Some foods are not safe until your baby is older than 12 months**



Raw egg or raw meat

Egg or meat cooked all the way through

## Do not force your baby to eat



If your baby does not want to eat, stop and try again in 2-3 hours



Let your baby decide how much they want to eat

## At around 6 months, start teaching your baby to drink boiled and cooled water from a cup



Learning to drink from a cup is important for your baby's development, healthy teeth and speech

## At around 8 months, start chopped and finger foods



Food play and messy eating is important for your baby's development.

Let your baby pick up food and feed themselves.

If you are worried about your baby's ability to chew or swallow, please speak to your doctor.



## Teeth care



- Clean baby's mouth twice a day with a clean, damp cloth
- Use a small soft toothbrush as teeth appear
- Stop bottle feeding at 12 months of age
- Start low fluoride toothpaste after 12 months



Do not let your baby feed while they are sleeping. This can cause dental carries and your baby might stop eating healthy food during the day.



Dental carries might hurt your baby and their developing adult teeth, plus impact your child's growth and sleep



Fruit juice, soft drink or Yakult

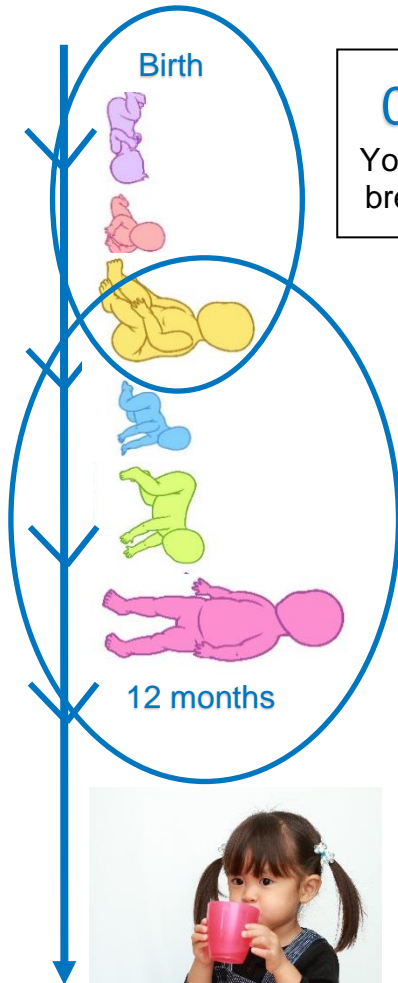


Tea and coffee

Your baby does not need tea, coffee, fruit juice or soft drink. Tea and coffee will stop your baby from getting iron. Yakult, juice and soft drink are high in sugar and may cause dental carries.



## Fluids



### 0-6 months

Your baby only needs breastmilk or formula



### 6-12 months

Offer boiled and cooled tap water. Continue offering your baby formula or breastmilk.



### From 12 months

Your baby can have water straight from the tap.

Your baby should know how to drink from a cup or a sippy cup.

You should stop using bottles.



## Dairy



Cow's milk or fortified soy milk  
1 serve = 250mL



Cheese  
1 serve = 2 slices

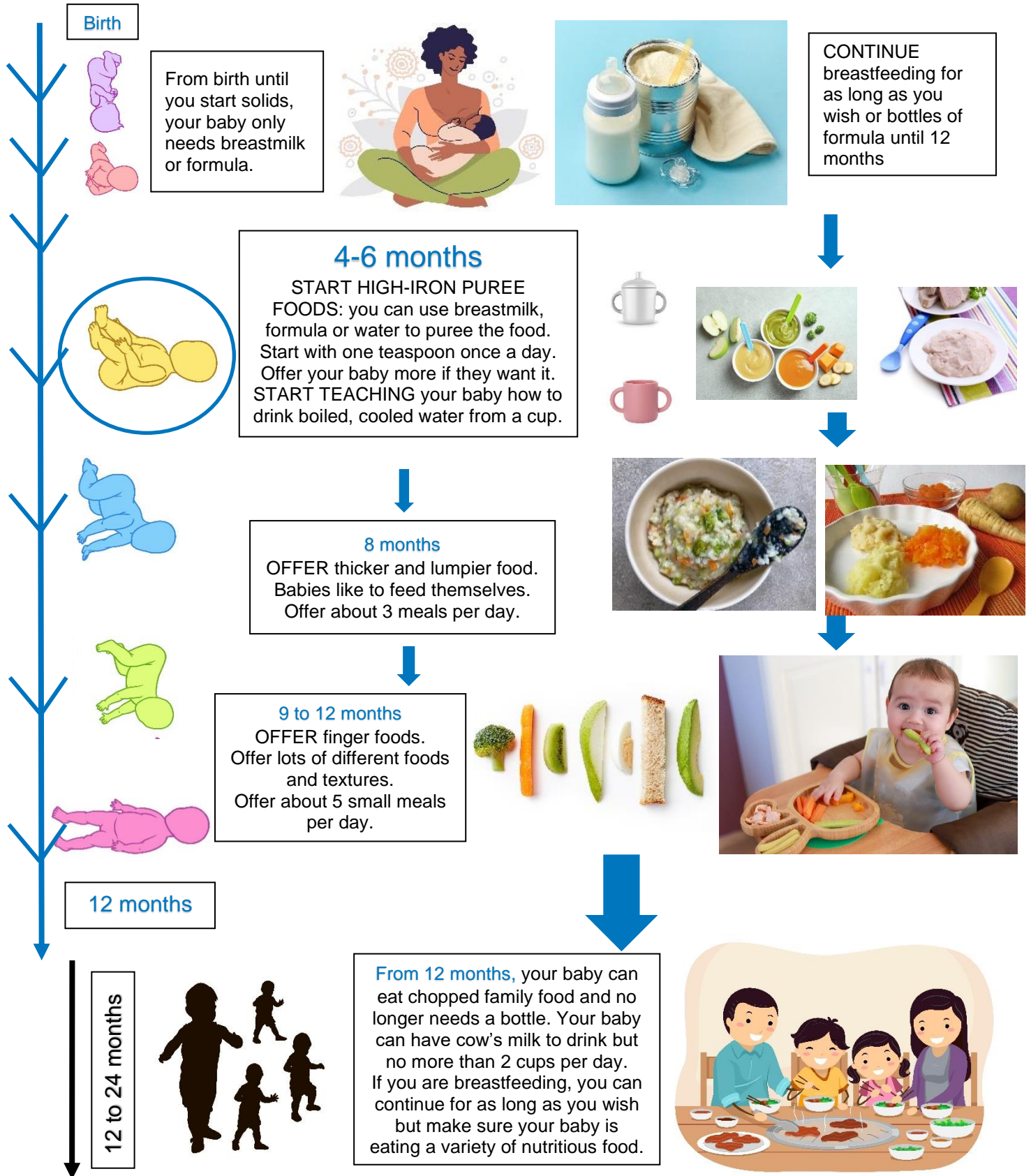


Yoghurt  
1 serve = 200g

After 12 months, your baby needs to eat or drink dairy 1-2 times every day. Do not offer your baby any more than 500mL of milk each day. Offer full-cream or full-fat dairy until your baby is 2 years old.



## Summary of first foods





## Prevent choking

Always watch carefully when your baby is eating:

- Do not let your baby move, crawl or walk with food in their mouth.
- Babies and young children can choke on food that is small, hard, round or sticky such as nuts, carrots and apple.
- Cut up round foods like grapes and cherry tomatoes.
- Cook, then grate or mash all hard fruit and vegetables like apple, carrots and beans.
- Remove skin, small bones and gristle from meat, chicken and fish.
- **Do not give whole nuts before 5 years of age.**

## Allergies

Watch for:

- Swelling of face, eyes or lips, hives or welts (red lumps on skin).
- Vomiting and diarrhoea.
- Rashes or redness of the skin.

**If your baby has an allergic reaction, stop giving that food and speak to your doctor.**

**Call 000 immediately if your baby has these severe reactions to any food:**

- difficult or noisy breathing
- wheeze or ongoing cough
- swelling of the tongue
- pale skin and floppy.

Information for allergens here

<https://preventallergies.org.au/>

(videos available in Burmese, Chin Haka, Hazaragi, Karen) <https://preventallergies.org.au/translated-infant-feeding-resources/>



Government of Western Australia  
Child and Adolescent Health Service



Multicultural Women's  
Health Services



### Child and Adolescent Health Service

15 Hospital Avenue, Nedlands, WA, 6009.

Telephone: (08) 6456 2222

Produced by: Refugee Health Service

Ref: 1565 © CAHS 2023

**Disclaimer:** This publication is for general education and information purposes. Contact a qualified healthcare professional for any medical advice needed.

© State of Western Australia, Child and Adolescent Health Service.

**We acknowledge Healthway for their funding support of this project, which has been undertaken in collaboration with Ishar**

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

