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**41. Infant Feeding Policy**

Aims: To ensure that all feeding routines are carried out safely and with high standards of hygiene.

Upon children joining Playstation Nursery Ltd all feeding routines are to be discussed and noted on their ‘Settling in Forms’. This includes times to be given, formula and water measurements and temperatures. All parents/carers are to be informed that they are required to supply **sterilised** bottles (not containing pre-sterilised water). Pre-measured formula or milk supplied by the parent/carer needs to be labelled with the amount and child’s name. Formula tubs must be labelled with the child’s name and when it was opened, and staff must follow parents/carers wishes on the amount(oz) of milk for each feed. When using formula tubs, check the dates of consumption are in date for use and compare to the opening date of the tubs. When measuring(oz) out the formula, ensure that each scoop is full of formula, and that the lip of the formula tub is used to flatten out each scoop. Any changes to a child’s feeding routine that may occur all staff must be notified.

Formula milk that has been prepared and heated needs to be consumed **within the hour** and if it exceeds the time limit it is to be discarded and bottle is rinsed. (kidshealth)

All staff are to carry out a competency check before making and feeding bottles unsupervised.

**Perfect Prep Machine**

Bottles are prepared using the ‘Perfect Prep Machine’ and each step must be followed carefully to ensure bottles are made to the correct standard.

1. Wash hands before preparing the bottle.
2. Fill the tank with COLD WATER.
3. Turn the dial to select the feed you require e.g. 5oz/7oz.
4. Position the sterilised bottle under the dispenser, the stand can be adjusted if necessary.
5. Press the start/stop button and a red light will flash and HOT WATER is dispensed into the bottle.
6. The light will change to solid red and will beep twice to indicate that the first step has finished. This will need to be used within 2 minutes of finish as the water can desterilise.
7. Add the desired amount of formula into the bottle and shake well until it is dissolved. These needs to be done at this stage as the hot water will sterilise the formula.
8. Place the bottle back onto the stand and press the button again. Cool water will be dispensed into the bottle and will beep twice to indicate that this step has finished.
9. Always ensure that the amount of liquid in the bottle is correct and ensure the temperature is appropriate before feeding.

The perfect prep machine must be risk assessed at the start of each day and fresh water is to be added before use. At the end of each day the water tank is to be rinsed with warm soapy water to ensure its clean and ready for use the next day.

There is an instruction manual that can be found on the 0-2s floor which includes how to change the filter; when and how to use the cleaning and descaling functions. The filter is to be changed approximately every 3 months. The machine will indicate when these actions are to be carried out and will flash a red warning light.

**Feeding Equipment**

According to the NHS website all feeding equipment such as spoons, cups, bowls and bottles are to be sterilised until at least 12 months old. Those who are under 12 months and are weaning it is important that their cutlery, cups and bowls are soaked in hot soapy water before feeding them.

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