

**MISSISSIPPI COUNTY, ARKANSAS, E.O.C.
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

BREAST FEEDING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Child Nutrition 1304.23 (e) (2), Caring for Our Children 4.3.1.1 4th edition

GOAL STATEMENT- MCAEOC will strive for excellence by enhancing educational services to support school readiness of children that will maximize their potential to enter kindergarten with a solid foundation for reading success.

POLICY:

MCAEOC will support and encourage mothers who choose to provide human breast milk for their infants. *Breast feeding is a natural and normal way for a mother to feed her infant. Breast feeding is one of the best ways for a mother and her infant child to bond.*

PROCEDURES:

- 1) MCAEOC Early Head Start will support and encourage any mother including staff who chooses to breast feed her infant. Breast feeding will be scheduled according to the times the mother has already established with her infant. If a staff member needs to pump her breast milk during classroom time. She should talk with her Site Supervisor to arrange the schedule to maintain the proper child/staff ratio in the classroom.
- 2) MCAEOC Early Head Start will provide a private, quiet area out of the classroom for the mother to breast feed her infant. Hygienic supplies will be provided to the mother prior to her starting the feeding. A soft towel will be given to the mother to cover her and the infant. The mother will be provided with soap, cloths, water, lotions or other hygiene articles necessary to clean up following the breast feeding.
- 3) MCAEOC staff will document the time of each feeding that the mother performs in the infants' folder.
- 4) If the mother chooses to send breast milk to the center for her infant, the MCAEOC Early Head Start will make sure the bottles are labeled with the child's name and wear gloves when handling the breast milk. Hands will be washed prior to putting on the gloves and again after taking the gloves off.
- 5) Unused breast milk will be discarded at the end of each day. No breast milk will be used after the day it is brought into the center. The containers are to be washed with hot, soapy water, rinsed in cool water, and sent home with the infant.
- 6) MCAEOC nurse will be available to help the mother with the breast feeding. The nurse will provide any teaching the mother needs to help her breast feed the infant. The nurse will also instruct the Early Head Start staff as needed. Information will be available to the mother and/or Early Head Start Staff as needed.