We recognise that all babies have individual feeding schedules and we strive to work alongside the Department of Health guidelines and in partnership with parents to ensure the pattern established at home will be adopted within the nursery. The nursery supports all mothers who wish to continue breastfeeding their babies and we will provide comfortable area for these Parents. Feeding times are seen as an opportunity for bonding between practitioner and child and where possible babies are fed by their key person

**Parents**

**We ask that parents support us in the following ways:**

* Inform staff when amount of milk changes/times for milk change
* Ensure all bottles are labelled with your child’s name and are sent complete with lid to ensure they stay clean & sterilised
* Infant formula powder is sent measured into a container with your child’s name on and how many scoops of formula for the feed
* Readymade formula is in an unopened container and is labelled with child’s name
* Breast milk is sent in a clearly labelled bottle with the date and time it was expressed

**Infant formula powder:**

**We will adhere to the following routine when preparing bottle feeds using infant formula powder:**

* Milk for babies is prepared in a separate dining room which is specifically designated for this **preparation**.
* Staff member wash hands with soap and hot water and dry
* Ensure area where preparing area is sterilize
* Boil fresh tap water in the kettle. Allow boiled water to cool for no longer than 30 minutes.
* Pour the required amount of water
* Add the pre-measured mount of formula from the child’s labelled container supplied by the parents
* Re-assemble the bottle ensuring sterilised areas are not touched
* Shake well to mix contents
* Cool quickly to feeding temperature by holding under a running cold tap
* Check the temperature by shaking a few drops onto the inside of wrist – it should feel lukewarm, not hot
* Discard of any feed that has not been used within two hours

 **Pre-prepared infant formula:**

The nursery is unable to reheat or serve pre-prepared formula brought in from home unless in a sealed carton.

**We will adhere to the following routine when preparing bottle feeds using pre-prepared infant formula:**

* Milk for babies is prepared in a separate dining room which is specifically designated for this preparation.
* Practitioner wash hands with soap and hot water and dry
* Ensure area where prepping bottle is sterile
* Transfer the formula to a sterile bottle
* Warm the formula using boiled water in a container
* Shake the bottle to ensure the formula has heated evenly
* Check the temperature by shaking a few drops onto the inside of wrist – it should feel lukewarm, not hot
* Discard of any feed that has not been sued with two hours

**Breast milk:**  
Following advice from the National health service, breast milk can be stored in a fridge for up to 24 hours providing that the temperature of the fridge remains between 2 and 4ºC, which practitioners will check daily. Parents should label each bottle with child’s name, with time and date that it was expressed to ensure milk is not stored for longer than this. Staff must check each bottle is labelled with the date and time the milk was expressed must be disposed of if passed 24 hours.

Breast milk can be given cold or at room temperature. If breastmilk needs warming the following routine will be used

* Breast milk for babies is prepared in a separate dining room which is specifically designated for this preparation.
* Wash hands
* Warm the breastmilk using boiled water in a container
* Shake the bottle to ensure the breastmilk has heated evenly
* Check the temperature by shaking a few drops onto the inside of wrist – it should feel lukewarm, not hot
* Discard of any feed that has not been sued with two hours

Babies are never left propped up or laid in a cot or a pram with bottles as it is both dangerous and inappropriate. Children are never left to self-feed to go to sleep.