

## ▶ Readiness Cues & Timing

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend introducing solid foods at or around the age of 6 months



### Readiness cues:

- ✓ Good head control
- ✓ Sits with help or support
- ✓ Brings objects to mouth
- ✓ Seems interested in food

### Pick a good time when baby is:

- ✓ In good spirits
- ✓ Wide awake
- ✓ Mildly hungry



### Pay attention

to recognize & respond to hunger cues



**BabyMatters**  
by Gerber Medical Hub

# Starting Solid Foods



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1. Dietary Guidelines 2022

Breastmilk is the ideal nutritional start for an infant. Infant formula and complementary foods should always be prepared, used, and stored as instructed on the label.



### Iron-fortified

baby cereals help provide iron that supports **healthy growth & brain development**

Getting enough **vitamin A, E, C & zinc** from foods like fortified baby cereal, baby fruits and veggies, helps support a healthy immune system



### Experiment with different textures

Start with thin and smooth and add more texture, like chunky or thick as baby develops



## How to Begin ▶

Baby spoon feeding is the introduction of solid foods in pureed form, such as infant cereal or purees, on an infant spoon

**Familiar taste** of breastmilk or formula helps Baby **accept** the new taste of cereal



**Spoon feeding** is a way to introduce solid foods

Parents can **pre-load spoon** for Baby to self-feed



**Baby-led feeding** is a way to introduce foods which focus on self-feeding



### Fullness cues:

- ✓ Stops or slows down the pace
- ✓ Turns head away
- ✓ Relaxed and may fall asleep
- ✓ Gets distracted and starts looking around



**Pay attention** to recognize & respond to **fullness cues**



**Keep trying** a variety of foods. For some babies it may take 8-10 exposures of a new food before they accept and seem to enjoy it!

## ▶ Key Nutrients & Textures

Feeding baby foods can provide key nutrients, and at the right consistency, like purees, can support the development of a wide variety of jaw movements and increase the ability to adapt to different types of oral sensory information and textures

## How Much is Enough? ▶

Responsive feeding is a feeding style focusing on responding to a child's hunger and fullness cues, helping young children learn how to self-regulate their intake