Baby Prep for Holiday Gatherings A FREE checklist from





Make time for naps.

- At 0-8 months, Baby typically takes 3 naps/day.
- Around 9 months, this changes to 2 naps/day.
- Toddlers usually nap once per day.

Try waking Baby a little earlier in the morning if you need to adjust their schedule.

Recognize Baby's sleep cues:

- Staring
- Rubbing eyes
- Looking awayYawning
- Red/flushed eyebrows
- Pulling at ears
- Getting fussy or upset Losing interest

Know if Baby will need to sleep at the gathering.

- Bring the clothing they sleep in, like a swaddle or sleep sack.
- Bring a travel crib if the host doesn't have one.
- Make sure that Baby's setup follows the ABCs of
 - Baby is sleeping <u>a</u>lone, with nothing in the crib.
 - Baby is sleeping on their **b**ack.
 - Baby is sleeping in a **c**rib or bassinet.

Feeding

Learn Baby's hunger cues:

- Licking or smacking lips
 Opening mouth
- Sucking on hand
- Bringing hands to mouth
 Rooting
- Sticking tongue out
- Fussiness

Turning head to hand

Learn Baby's full cues:

- Closing mouth
 Distracted or disinterested
- Relaxing
- Turning head away
- Drowsiness
- Slowing down or stopping

Plan for breastfeeding/formula feeding on the go.

- Bring travel items like a pump or privacy sling.
- Make sure to drink water and eat enough!

If Baby has started solids, plan for foods they'll eat.

- Bring some precooked or no-cook foods.
- Talk to the host about providing food for Baby.
- Remember to avoid in Baby's first year:
 - Cow's milk
 - Honey
 - Salt and artificial sweeteners
 - Juice and sugary drinks



Health & Safety

Prepare for non-baby-proofed homes.

- Closely watch Baby if they can move on their own.
- Bring monitors or gates if needed.
- Move breakable/unsafe items out of Baby's reach.
- Keep an eye out for pets.

Bring hand sanitizer or encourage hand washing.

 Provide hand sanitizer to anyone who wants to hold Baby, or request that they wash their hands.

Ask Baby's healthcare provider about preparing.

- Especially if Baby was in the NICU or was born premature, there may be some special considerations for their health and safety.
- Download the FREE Pathways.org **Baby Milestones App!**

Support Baby's development on the go, and never miss a minute of Tummy Time!

Click to download:







artile Other Tips

Know when Baby is alert & ready to play.

Play or interact with family when Baby:

- Is quiet & calmHas their eyes open
- Enjoys being cuddled
 Is aware of surroundings
- ☐ Talk to family about the holidays. Ask things like:
 - What time will we gather, eat, or open gifts?
 - What is the set-up of the location?
 - Is there a quiet room where Baby can sleep?
 - Is there food Baby can eat?

Keep Baby warm in the cold weather.

- Dress baby in layers.
- Bring and wear hats, gloves, mittens, and socks.
- Keep their carrier inside (not in the car).
- Put Baby's jacket on *over* their car seat harness.

Take care of yourself!

The holidays are often exhausting to begin with, but it takes even more energy when there's a baby! Remember to get rest when you can to make more memories together.