

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



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Dear Colleague,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, through funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (HRSA's MCHB) and the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention (CDC), has spent the last 3 years developing and testing a residency curriculum on breastfeeding that I am now delighted to be able to share with you and hope you consider incorporating into your residency program. Research continues to show residents are in need of developing confidence and skills in breastfeeding care, and when training in breastfeeding is incorporated into residency their confidence, skills and clinical care improve.

Breastfeeding is one of the issues that your residents will encounter when they start their careers as practicing pediatricians, family physicians, or obstetrician/gynecologists. Being able to provide breastfeeding care to mothers and babies will likely be one of the most rewarding parts of their jobs, if they are well-prepared to provide this care. The AAP has made it a priority to help you to ensure that they are well prepared for their roles as members of the health team that will support breastfeeding families. Despite the rise in breastfeeding in the United States, more mothers than ever are supplementing breastfeeding with formula. During the testing of this curriculum it was found that incorporating residency education about breastfeeding not only increased overall breastfeeding rates but also dramatically improved exclusive breastfeeding initiation.

By visiting <http://www.aap.org/breastfeeding/curriculum> you can access a wealth of resources that will help you to incorporate breastfeeding education in to your residency program. You will find a curriculum outline, arranged according the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education Core Competencies, implementation support, prepared case studies and presentations, clinical and evaluation tools, and audiovisual resources. All of the elements of the curriculum were pilot-tested during a 2-year evaluation study funded by HRSA's MCHB and the CDC. Many of your colleagues have used this curriculum and have made a difference in the knowledge, practice patterns, and confidence of their residents related to breastfeeding, and have increased their institutions' breastfeeding rates.

I hope that you are convinced that breastfeeding education is needed in every residency program. If you have questions or need assistance please contact Lauren Barone, MPH, Manager Breastfeeding Initiatives, at 800-433-9016 ext 4779 or lbarone@aap.org.

Sincerely,

/s/

David T. Tayloe, Jr, MD, FAAP

President

DTT/lb