

## Child Care

**Why are changes needed?** In Michigan, there are over 77,000 working mothers with infants under one year of age and 443,000 children under the age of six potentially in need of child care.<sup>1</sup> For mothers that return to work, breastfeeding for six months is significantly associated with support from child care providers. Across all types of centers, breastfeeding-supportive policies should be in place for both breastfeeding families and staff members.

### **MIBFN Recommends:**

- All centers should adopt a clear written policy supporting breastfeeding for both families and staff.
- All centers should provide a clean, designated area (other than a bathroom) for staff, families, and visitors to breastfeed and/or express milk.
- All centers should encourage breastfeeding families to breastfeed and/or express milk on site for their children. Likewise, staff should be granted appropriate break time to express milk and/or breastfeed their children.
- Staff and families should receive accurate printed materials and information about breastfeeding, including a list of community resources.
- Staff should receive training on breastfeeding, including the health benefits, importance of exclusive breastfeeding, and support practices, including safe storage and handling of breast milk and paced bottle feeding.
- Under federal law, it should be illegal for a child care provider and/or center to discriminate against a breastfeeding family and/or staff member.

To learn more about the MIBFN Child Care campaign, visit [www.mibreastfeeding.org/child-care](http://www.mibreastfeeding.org/child-care)

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1. Child Care Aware of America, 2017 State Fact Sheet for Michigan, [http://usa.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/MI\\_Facts.pdf](http://usa.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/MI_Facts.pdf).