

ALABAMA BREASTFEEDING FRIENDLY CHILD CARE

REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

We are excited to hear that your program is interested in becoming a Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care in Alabama. This is an exciting first step in supporting your community and the families you serve. It is also a way to provide the children trusted to your care with the best start in life. Supporting families, educating staff, growing the next generation of leaders by promoting evidence-based feeding practices is a win-win for everyone. We look forward to taking this journey with you and are here to answer questions and direct you to resources as needed.

The Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Initiative is a collaborative effort of the Alabama Department of Public Health’s State Perinatal Program, the Alabama Partnership for Children (APC), the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), and the Alabama Breastfeeding Committee (ABC). Together, it is our desire to recognize child care providers in the state that meet the recommended requirements to achieve Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care status.

If you and your program are interested in becoming certified as a Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care, the following process must be followed:

Complete Training	Contact your local Cooperative Extension Office to receive the “ <i>Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care</i> ” training for all staff and complete initial self-assessment tool.
Implement	Begin your program’s journey to becoming a Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care by meeting the 5 Requirements to Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly. A toolkit will be provided that details each requirement as well as providing resources to help meet each requirement.
Apply	Complete the Application Packet. Submit completed application and one copy of all supporting documentation to the Cooperative Extension for review. The completed application and the *\$25 processing fee must be submitted to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alabama Cooperative Extension Attn: Christina LeVert 183 S.W. Davidson Drive Centreville, AL 35042 - Email: Christina.Lever@aces.edu
Verify	The ACES agent will contact the child care program to schedule a site visit to ensure compliance with the 5 requirements after the application is reviewed. If the program meets all requirements, recognition as a Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care will be awarded.
Become Certified	Programs that are recognized will be listed on the Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama Breastfeeding Committee, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and the Alabama Partnership for Children’s web sites. Programs will be awarded a certificate stating the child care program is Breastfeeding Friendly, and the program will be permitted to advertise as an Alabama Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care. The Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care recognition is good for two years from the date of the site visit. Your program must reapply every two years for continued recognition.

* There is no cost for the training or site visit provided by the ACES or APC trainer. For a limited time, the \$25 processing fee has been waived due to the support of grant funding.

