

Feeding and Nursing Necklace Do's & Don'ts

♥ Do's

- Allow baby to twiddle to his heart's content! Our beads are all safe for baby's hands!
- Turn the nursing necklace throughout a feeding session so baby can experience the full variety of beads. If you opted for a longer personalization, just turn your necklace so that baby can play with something other than just AlphaBeads.
- Clean your necklace with soap and water or a disinfecting wipe regularly.
- Encourage your baby to play with the necklace while feeding. Rattle the beads or position it directly in his line of sight. Necklaces are long enough for baby to get a good hold of!
- Bring your nursing necklace or feeding necklace out while feeding in public. It helps!
- Practice patterns, object/shape/color recognition, letter/sound identification, with your baby and/or toddler!
- Have fun with your nursing necklace! Put a twist on *Old McDonald* and use ALL the fun beads in the song. "On his farm he had a lion, E-I-E-I-O, with a "Grrrrr!" here and a "Grrrrr!" there!"
- Keep your nursing necklace as a special keepsake. Baby's chest, scrapbook, or dress-up toy.
- Start a ritual with your nursing necklace. Older babies love predictability. Bring it out for all those active feedings to signal to your baby when it is time to nurse.
- Signing with your baby? Learn the sign for necklace.
- Allow your baby to experience the necklace with his senses. Let him feel the different beads, gaze at the colors, and listen to the necklace when you rattle it or shake it. *No taste testing!* Our necklaces are designed to be very tactile for a ton of sensory exploration.
- Develop a signal with your baby to sign a "necklace no-no". Baby chewing on the necklace? Stay consistent and use words like "no-no" or "yuck-yuck". Signing works! Try to give a visual and verbal at the same time to help baby develop an awareness of nursing necklace "no-no's".
- Purchase a second nursing necklace to keep in the diaper bag. A second necklace is also nice so you can switch nursing necklaces out regularly and keep baby engaged. Rotate them every few days for a "brand new" feel to baby. Take a second necklace to church, shopping, etc.
- Consider keeping the older sibling involved by purchasing them a necklace of their own.

♥ Don'ts

- Allow a child under the age of three to wear or play independently with your necklace.
- Leave baby unattended! A nursing necklace should be used under strict adult supervision.
- Allow baby to "teeth" or "gum" the necklace. Our beads are non-toxic, but if they ever broke loose, they do present a choking hazard. Our necklaces are NOT teething toys but rather accessories to aid mommy during feeding time.
- Pull the nursing necklace's safety clasp apart "for the fun of it". This feature is integrated into our designs as a safety feature not a toy.
- Feel embarrassed to wear your nursing necklace to the grocery store. Many moms comment on the compliments they get! Even grown-ups are engaged by all the fun beads!

Over indulge your little one with his nursing necklace. Rotate necklaces, keep it in a bag or a drawer while not nursing, or put it away for a few days (if baby seems to lose interest). Don't make it available 24-7 and baby is more likely to be engaged by it when he should be - during feeding time!