

## HOW WILL BREAST MILK HELP MY BABY?

Breast milk is one thing that <u>ONLY YOU</u> can provide for your baby's health and nutrition.

Breast milk has ingredients that cannot be found in infant formula.

You can provide it for as short or as long as <u>you</u> want.

Even small amounts of breast milk will give you and your baby the following health advantages:

- Breast milk is more easily digested. This is important for premature babies and babies who have had bowel surgery.
- Breast milk helps protect babies from necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) a very serious bowel complication.
- Breast milk provides protection against infection, such as colds, ear infections, and meningitis.
- ♥ Moms of preemies have more infection fighting cells in their breast milk, best for a preemie.
- ♥ Breast milk helps PREVENT allergies.
- ♥ Breast-milk-fed babies have higher IQ's (makes them smarter).
- ♥ Breast milk babies have less SIDS (crib death).
- Breastfeeding for 6 months or more gives extra protection to babies against diabetes, childhood cancers, and obesity.
- ♥ Moms who breastfeed have less risk of breast and ovarian cancer.

Adapted from Kris Wiedman RN BSN IBCLC, University of TN Medical Center