

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



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141 Northwest Point Blvd  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098  
Phone: 847/434-4000  
Fax: 847/434-8000  
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org  
www.aap.org

Margaret Chan, MD, MPH, OBE, JP  
Director General  
World Health Organization  
Avenue Appia 20  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

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UNICEF  
UNICEF House  
3 United Nations Plaza  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Dr Chan and Ms Veneman,

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I am pleased to inform you that the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) extends AAP endorsement to the *WHO/UNICEF Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding* with the following footnote related to the ninth step, "Give no artificial teats or pacifiers (also called dummies or soothers) to breastfeeding infants."

The AAP does not support a categorical ban on pacifiers due to their role in SIDS risk reduction and their analgesic benefit during painful procedures when breastfeeding cannot provide the analgesia. Pacifier use in the hospital in the neonatal period should be limited to specific medical indications such as pain reduction, calming in a drug exposed infant etc. Mothers of healthy term breastfed infants should be instructed to delay pacifier use until breastfeeding is well-established usually about 3 - 4 weeks after birth.

*The AAP is not suggesting that WHO/UNICEF change the original document. However, because we feel that there is sufficient scientific evidence to support the use of pacifiers for medical indications, this foot note will be included whenever the Ten Steps are referenced in AAP materials.*

After carefully reviewing the *Ten Steps*, the AAP strongly supports all other recommendations contained therein. I would therefore like to request that the AAP be included as an organization that is endorsing this document. As you are well aware, the endorsement of these *Ten Steps* is integral to improving the overall care that mothers and babies receive in maternity facilities in the United States and is particularly helpful to our national effort to promote breastfeeding.

The AAP endorsement of this document is especially important because of our recent experience with the new *AAP Breastfeeding Residency Curriculum*. Through testing this curriculum it became evident that in order for residents to effectively learn about the care of breastfeeding families they need to be taught in a breastfeeding supportive environment. Ensuring that the *Ten Steps* are in place is a vital step towards creating this atmosphere for our future pediatricians. This curriculum is now available on the AAP website ([www.aap.org/breastfeeding/curriculum](http://www.aap.org/breastfeeding/curriculum)) for downloading without charge.

The AAP is already putting this endorsement in to practice through its recent publication of the *Sample Hospital Breastfeeding Policy for Newborns*

[http://www.aap.org/breastfeeding/curriculum/documents/pdf/Hospital%20Breastfeeding%20Policy\\_FIN\\_AL.pdf](http://www.aap.org/breastfeeding/curriculum/documents/pdf/Hospital%20Breastfeeding%20Policy_FIN_AL.pdf) by the AAP Section on Breastfeeding and the Section on Perinatal Pediatrics and included in the *AAP Safe and Healthy Beginnings Toolkit*.

We believe that these *Ten Steps* improve the care of mothers and their infants both in the United States and worldwide and look forward to promoting and endorsing this document in the future.

Sincerely,

/s/

David T. Tayloe, Jr., MD, FAAP  
President

DTT/lfb

cc: Errol R. Alden, MD, FAAP, AAP Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer  
Ala Alwan, MD, WHO Assistant Director-General for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health  
Carissa Etienne, MD, WHO Assistant Director-General for Health Systems and Services  
Ruth Lawrence, MD, FAAP, AAP Section on Breastfeeding Chairperson  
Elizabeth Mason, MD, WHO Director of Child and Adolescent Health  
Peter Salama, MD, UNICEF Chief of Health  
Werner Schultink, MD, UNICEF Chief of Child Development and Nutrition  
Daisy Mafubelu, WHO Assistant Director-General for Family and Community Health