## READINESS FOR PROCESSED BABY FOODS?

Mashed and puréed foods can start to be introduced between the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> month and the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> month. The following behaviours will tell you if your baby is ready to start eating such foods.

### BABY

• will be curious as to what you are eating

can follow the spoon with its eyes

can grasp an object and lead it to its mouth

# TIPS FOR INTRODUCING MASHED AND PURÉED FOODS

- Feed the child in an upright position: e.g. on your lap or in a high chair, when the child is able to sit up unaided.
- Use a **small spoon** and start with small portions. The first attempts at eating these foods will serve primarily to familiarise baby with solid foods.
- **To start with,** offer **breast or bottle**, later on water or unsweetened tea, after mashed food.
- Introduce new foods at intervals of 3-4 days, preferably during the day.
- Patience: baby needs to become accustomed to and practice eating with a spoon.
- Be able to read the fullness signals of your child and do not force the child to eat.

Do not place the child's **spoon** in your **own mouth**.

# AVOID THE FOLLOWING IN THE FIRST YEAR



Sugar, salt, honey and whole nuts

# THE FOLLOWING WILL ADD TO YOUR CHILD'S ENJOYMENT OF EATING

- ← A relaxed atmosphere
- **Do not** use **distractions** or games to coerce the child to eat beyond its point of satisfaction.
- Allow the child to join in at **family mealtimes** (role model function).
- Support the **independence of your child** by occasionally also allowing it to hold the spoon itself or allowing it to eat small soft pieces with its fingers.
- Allow the **child to decide** whether and how much it eats.
- As soon as your child becomes comfortable with set mealtimes, **add new foods to its meal plan.**

These are general recommendations. For personalised advice, please contact Mütter- und Väterberatung Baselland or your paediatrician.

### TIPS FOR PREPARING PURÉED FOOD USING A VEGETABLE-CEREAL MASH BY WAY OF EXAMPLE

- Select local vegetables that are in season
- → ⅔ vegetables, ⅓ starch (cereal or potatoes)
- Purée the mash finely to start with; leave increasing amounts in pieces from month 8
- The mash can be stored for up to 24 hours in the refrigerator, or by freezing it.
- Add 1-2 teaspoons each of rapeseed or olive oil and fruit juice to the thawed and warmed portion



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For personalised advice: www.muetterberatung-bl.ch



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# **NUTRITION PLAN** FOR BABY'S **FIRST YEAR**

