# Working and Breastfeeding Made Simple: A Comprehensive Guide to Success

Balancing the demands of a career and the responsibilities of motherhood can be a daunting task, especially for breastfeeding mothers. However, with the right planning and support, it is possible to successfully work and breastfeed, ensuring the well-being of both mother and child.



Working and Breastfeeding Made Simple by Nancy Mohrbacher

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Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
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This comprehensive guide provides working mothers with essential information and strategies to help them navigate the challenges of breastfeeding while maintaining their professional obligations.

#### **Preparing for Work**

Before returning to work, it is important to take some time to prepare and plan for breastfeeding. This includes:

- Establishing a regular breastfeeding routine with your baby. This will help your baby adjust to feeding on a schedule that works for both of you.
- Building up a freezer stash of breast milk. This will provide you with a backup supply of milk to use when you are away from your baby.
- Discussing your breastfeeding plans with your employer. Let them know that you will be breastfeeding and inquire about any accommodations or support they can provide.
- Identifying a dedicated pumping location at work. This should be a private, comfortable place where you can express milk without interruptions.
- Purchasing the necessary equipment. This includes a breast pump, storage bags, and a cooler or insulated bag to transport your milk.

#### **Breastfeeding at Work**

Once you return to work, there are several strategies you can use to make breastfeeding successful.

- Pumping regularly. Aim to pump every 2-3 hours, or as often as your baby would typically breastfeed.
- Finding a private place to pump. If your workplace does not provide a dedicated lactation room, you may need to use a private office, bathroom, or conference room.
- Using a hands-free breast pump. This will allow you to continue working while you are pumping.

- Storing your breast milk properly. Freshly pumped breast milk can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 5 days, or in the freezer for up to 6 months.
- Coordinating with your caregiver. If you are using a childcare provider, make sure to provide them with clear instructions on how to store and feed your baby your expressed milk.

#### **Returning to Work**

Returning to work after breastfeeding can be an emotional time for both mother and baby. Here are some tips to make the transition as smooth as possible:

- Start back to work gradually. If possible, start back working part-time or on a flexible schedule to give yourself time to adjust.
- Let your baby know that you will be returning to work. Spend extra time cuddling and breastfeeding your baby in the days leading up to your return to work.
- Stay in touch with your baby throughout the day. Call or video chat with your baby during your breaks to help them feel connected to you.
- Be patient and flexible. It may take some time for both you and your baby to adjust to breastfeeding while you are working.

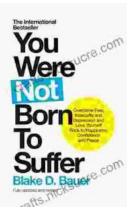
Working and breastfeeding can be a challenging but rewarding experience. With the right planning and support, it is possible to successfully balance both roles and ensure the well-being of both mother and child. By following the tips outlined in this guide, you can navigate the challenges and achieve success as a working breastfeeding mother.

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