BREASTFEEDING BUZZ

April 2026
Volume 10 Issue 4

Free Education

April 14
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. IEBfC Virtual Monthly Check Ins. Register at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMld-Cqqz0oEtL74s9hAXoOG-h8ICd02vDP#/registration

April 28
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Medela Webinar: Building Successful Perinatal Optimization Teams: Effective teamworking, shared goals and positive communication. Register at: https://app.livestorm.co/p/150c3b98-4b81-47b2-877b-aa4ad2cc7dc9

Available on Demand
Great Lakes Michigan breastfeeding webinars - Removing Food Barriers: The Healing and Love Language of Communities https://glbw.thinkific.com/courses/march-2026

WBW 2026 Theme

As we look ahead to World Breastfeeding Week (August 1–7, 2026), this year's theme "Prioritize Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems", highlights the importance of building coordinated, long-term support for breastfeeding families. This message strongly aligns with our ongoing efforts across Mississippi to strengthen systems of care, from Baby-Friendly hospital practices and discharge planning (Step 10) to community-based support through MILC Leagues and WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselors. Together, these efforts help ensure that families receive consistent, accessible, and equitable support throughout their breastfeeding journey.

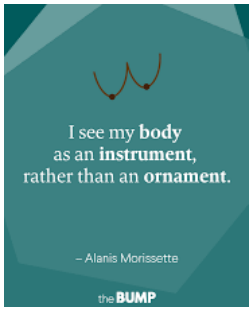
Breastfeeding and Autism: Practical Strategies for Lactation Professionals

How Can Autism Influence Breastfeeding Behaviors and Experiences?
Autism can significantly influence breastfeeding behaviors, presenting unique challenges for both autistic mothers and their infants. Sensory sensitivities, oral-motor differences, and behavioral traits may complicate the breastfeeding process. Some infants with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) may experience difficulties with sucking and latching, which can contribute to shorter breastfeeding durations.
Autistic mothers may also encounter barriers such as sensory overload, heightened pain perception, and challenges accessing appropriate support. These factors can make it more difficult to initiate and sustain breastfeeding.
To support a positive breastfeeding experience, it is essential to create environments that accommodate sensory and communication needs. Helpful strategies include offering quiet, sensory-friendly feeding spaces, using visual aids to supplement verbal guidance, and ensuring clear, respectful communication. Prioritizing consent and providing autism-informed care through staff training are also key components.
In some cases, alternative feeding approaches and individualized coping strategies may help reduce sensory overwhelm. Ultimately, fostering a supportive, flexible, and person-centered environment is critical to empowering autistic mothers and improving breastfeeding outcomes.
In alignment with Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative Step 10, connecting families to ongoing, autism-informed breastfeeding support, such as community-based groups, WIC services, and MILC Leagues, is essential to ensure continuity of care and sustained breastfeeding success beyond discharge.
Resources: National Library of Medicine; La Leche League GB; National Autistic Society

Breastfeeding Support

WIC Breastfeeding Program 601-981-2304
Bloom & Grow Lactation 601-427-0777
The Infant Risk Center 806 352-2519 Dr. Thomas Hale's medication helpline.
La Leche League of Metro Jackson, MS https://www.facebook.com/groups/LLLofMetroJackson/
MS MILC Leagues For locations and information, see https://www.msbfc.org/ms-milc-league.html

MSBFC Meeting
April 9, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
Please join via Teams at https://bit.ly/MSBFCmeeting.



MISSISSIPPI WIC Women, Infants and Children

MISSISSIPPI BREASTFEEDING COALITION