

Pointers For Parents

New Infant Formula Clinically Shown To Enhance Mental And Visual Development

(NAPSA)—A new infant formula—Enfamil® LIPIL™—has been clinically demonstrated to enhance mental and visual development in infants.

In a recent study published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, infants fed Enfamil LIPIL showed improved visual acuity when tested at 4 months, 6 months and one year of age versus infants who were fed an unsupplemented formula.

In the study, infants were breastfed for approximately the first six weeks following birth, and then were switched to either Enfamil LIPIL or to a control formula. The control formula did not contain LIPIL, Enfamil's unique blend of DHA and ARA. DHA and ARA are building blocks of a baby's brain and eyes. When tested at one year of age, the infants fed the formula showed improved visual acuity equal to about one line on a standard eye chart compared to the infants consuming the control formula.

"In comparing breastfed infants to formula-fed infants, one of the differences often seen is improved

visual acuity in the breastfed infants," said Alan Greene, MD, FAAP, a practicing pediatrician and attending physician at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University. "Scientists believe that it is because of the presence of a sufficient amount of DHA in breast milk—DHA and ARA are important building blocks of brain and eye tissue."

The study was led by Eileen Birch, PhD, of the Retina Foundation of the Southwest in Dallas, who has studied DHA and ARA for 15 years. An earlier study led by Dr. Birch and funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development also pointed to the visual and mental developmental benefits of Enfamil LIPIL. In that study, infants fed Enfamil LIPIL from birth to four months scored an average of seven points higher (on a 100 point scale) on a test of mental development at 18 months compared to infants fed a control formula without LIPIL. The study also showed improved visual acuity at one year.

"This latest Birch study is significant for a number of reasons," said Greene. "First of all, it suggests that the critical period for infant visual development extends beyond the first six weeks of life—that means infants may benefit from receiving Enfamil LIPIL with DHA and ARA beyond that initial period. Secondly, it shows that infants can maintain blood levels of DHA and ARA more like the levels of breastfed babies if they are weaned to a formula supplemented with these nutrients at sufficient levels."

Greene adds that while breast milk remains the "gold standard" in infant nutrition, most mothers who start out breastfeeding wean their infants or supplement with infant formula after the first few months. "Enfamil LIPIL is the best option for moms looking for a formula that provides DHA and ARA at levels clinically shown to benefit infants," said Greene.

For information about infant formula see your baby's doctor, visit enfamil.com or call 1-800-BABY-123.