

DSM's position on infant nutrition

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Human milk represents the nutritional gold standard for infant nutrition. DSM strongly supports the World Health Organization's recommendation that infants should be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life to achieve optimal growth, development and long-term health.

Older infants and young children should receive nutritionally adequate and safe complementary foods, while continuing to be breastfed for up to two years or more.

Why does DSM sell ingredients to infant formula companies if it believes 'breast is best'?

At DSM, we believe that breastfeeding is an unequalled way of providing ideal food for the healthy growth and development of infants. It is also an integral part of the reproductive process with important implications for the health of mothers.

For many reasons, however, not every infant will be fed breast milk exclusively for 6 months. Indeed, some mothers choose not to breastfeed or they may breastfeed only part of the time; and a small percentage perhaps cannot breastfeed their babies at all.

Infant formula, although it can never equal breast milk, should be formulated to ensure that the safest, most nutritionally complete substitute possible is made available for babies who are not solely breastfed. The industry's goal over the years has been to continually improve the quality and safety of infant formula. We believe the inclusion of nutrients found in breast milk, like docosahexaenoic acid and arachidonic acid, commonly known as DHA and ARA, help achieve this goal.

What type of ingredients does DSM make for infant formula?

DSM manufactures a wide range of vitamins, nutrient blends and nutritional lipids that can be used in infant nutrition. DSM's ingredients can also be used in infant cereals, fruit and vegetable juices, biscuits and baby meals as well as supplements and foods for maternal nutrition.

Are DSM's ingredients safe?

Yes. DSM is committed to ensuring the safety and quality of its ingredients for use in infant nutrition. We have a comprehensive program to continuously monitor and evaluate safety and quality. Extensive analysis is performed in-house as well as by independent third parties to ensure purity and quality. Quality, reliability, traceability and sustainability are at the core principles of our business, so we can deliver the highest-quality ingredients and solutions.

Infant formula remains the most highly regulated food in the world. There is agreement in the international scientific and pediatric community that the formulation of dietary products for infants must be based on sound evidence and infant formula must always be demonstrated to be safe.