What infant formula should I use?
It doesn’t matter which brand you use, they are all very similar. It doesn’t matter if you choose cows’ or goats’ milk based formula, but talk to your midwife or health visitor before choosing a soya based formula.

What about all the other milks that claim to help hungry babies, prevent colic, wind, reflux or allergies?
There is no evidence that most of these “special” milks do any good, and they might not be safe for your baby. Ask your GP or other health professional if you think your baby might need a different milk.

Should I move on to follow-on formula when my baby is six months old?
There is no need for follow-on formula. Stick to a first infant formula throughout the first year.

How long do I need to use infant formula for?
When your baby is one year old, they will be getting more of their energy, vitamins and minerals from food, and full fat cows’ milk can be their main milk drink. If you have any concerns, or want to know about other milks, ask your health visitor.

Want to know more?
A simple, up to date guide on infant milks can be downloaded at firststepsnutrition.org
Unicef UK provides a guide on different types of infant milks, available for download at babyfriendly.org.uk

Breastfeeding is the healthiest way to feed your baby. If you decide not to breastfeed or to stop breastfeeding, it is possible to restart. Giving infant formula to a breastfed baby will reduce your milk supply. You do not need to eat any special foods while breastfeeding, but it is a good idea for you, just like everyone else, to eat a healthy diet.
Feed your baby when they show signs of being hungry: look out for cues (moving head and mouth around, sucking on fingers). Crying is the last sign of wanting to feed, so try and feed your baby before they cry (for more details, see the Start4Life Guide to bottle feeding).

Hold baby close in a semi-upright position so you can see their face and reassure them by looking into their eyes and talking to them during the feed. Begin by inviting baby to open their mouth: gently rub the teat against their top lip.

Gently insert the teat into baby’s mouth keeping the bottle in a horizontal position (just slightly tipped) to prevent milk from flowing too fast.

Follow baby’s cues for when they need a break and gently remove the teat or bring the bottle downwards to cut off the flow of milk.

Your baby will know how much milk they need. Forcing your baby to finish a feed will be distressing, and can mean your baby is overfed.