
Submission no. 369
AUTHORISED: 30/5/07 *M*

Hi

My little girl is about 6 months of age and I'm still breastfeeding. I know the committee has already started but I thought the following comments may be of interest.

Due to problems with a flat nipple and bleeding from breastfeeding in the hospital (my baby was drinking my blood – and this is not uncommon as I've heard it from other mothers) I've been using the nipple shields. I find the nipple shields fantastic and without them I would have stopped breastfeeding within the first few weeks. My main issue is 'expert' services which would rather almost bully you off the nipple shields and suffer the consequences (mostly give up breastfeeding and go the bottle), than be happy using these little plastic shields and continue breastfeeding.

I know that there is information that 'may' link shield use to mastitis – and I have had mastitis and been in hospital on a drip in one incident – but I believe in my case it is more that I as extremely run down at these points and couldn't fight off the infection. Also – other issues affected the severity of the case which leads me to another point.

One of the reasons I believe that I ended up in hospital was that the 'experts' (in this case a Tresillian worker), tried to get me off the nipple shields while I had a relatively minor case of mastitis – in which the nipples then started to bleed – and as a result became difficult to breastfeed. My issue here is that although I believe Tressilian and the other mother care agencies to be absolutely fantastic at times of need – they also need to recognize that they do not need to follow the rulebook in every case. If it wasn't that I believed that the breastfeeding would help me through such a terrible case of mastitis I would have dropped it immediately and started with the bottle and formula (not even expressing for a bottle).

I hope this helps your investigation as now I love breastfeeding.

Regards
Simone
