

PARTICIPANT TYPE.....	ALL
HIGH RISK.....	No

RISK DESCRIPTION:

Entering the foster care system during the previous six months or moving from one foster care home to another foster care home during the previous six months.

ASK ABOUT:

- Participant’s adaptation to current foster care situation, especially eating and drinking patterns and behaviors
- Social and medical history as related to feeding and nutritional status (if known). Many adults applying for WIC benefits for a foster child do not know the child’s social or medical history including the child’s eating patterns, special dietary needs, chronic illnesses or other factors which would typically be used to qualify the child for WIC services
- Access to ongoing health care and barriers to obtaining care

NUTRITION COUNSELING/EDUCATION TOPICS:

- Foster children are among the most vulnerable individuals in the welfare system. They have a high frequency of mental and physical problems, often the result of abuse and neglect suffered prior to entry into the foster care system. They also have higher rates of chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes and seizure disorders. Foster children are also more likely than children in the general population to have birth defects, inadequate nutrition and growth retardation including short stature.
- Review age-appropriate feeding guidelines or lifecycle-appropriate nutrition recommendations and make suggestions as needed.

POSSIBLE REFERRALS:

- If the participant is entering the foster care system for the first time or is not currently receiving early intervention services, refer the family to the Right Track Program for early intervention services (<http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/disabilities/earlyintervention/parent-info/right-track.html>).
- If the participant does not have an ongoing source of health care, refer to primary care providers in the community or the local public health department.
- If other problems are identified that require follow-up outside of the WIC setting, refer the participant to the appropriate social services agency or health care program/provider.