

PaTrice

7/8/2014 17:26:41

This is beautiful.

[REPLY](#)

Sheryn Villemez

7/8/2014 17:39:28

I LOVE these stories! Thanks!

[REPLY](#)

Sophia

7/8/2014 18:28:08

I gave birth to my first child over two years ago and he still breastfeeds! I am Lakota/Dakota/Nakota and Ipay.

[REPLY](#)

Amanda

7/8/2014 19:12:54

I am half Cherokee and am expecting my first child, with full plans to breastfed my son as long as he choses to!

[REPLY](#)

Jennifer

7/8/2014 19:24:43

Love your article. Very thoughtful and inspiration that in just a few words gives women a powerful message about family, health and community. I grew up watching my Native American Grandmother work incredibly hard to take care of her family, and their families so I can relate. She was Navajo and no doubt the strongest women I've ever met. I breast feed for the last two years, have a Computer Science Degree and worked three jobs so some of that heritage was passed down!

[REPLY](#)

Christine Ortega

7/8/2014 19:42:15

I am 1/3rd Blackfoot. My mother was half Mexican and half American Indian. I don't live on the rez but I have always been proud of my Indian heritage. I have been successfully breastfeeding for seven months and counting. I am the first Mom in my husbands family (who also is mexican and native american) to have breastfed longer than 2 weeks and I love the bond and special moments and I share with my son. I'm proud to say I am a breastfeeding native American mother.

[REPLY](#)

Jenn J

7/8/2014 20:10:59

I'm an Anishinaabe kwe to four children, all of whom I breastfeed (3 years, 3.5 years, 2 years and 1 year). My second and third babies got to nurse together for 2 years. My last baby didn't get to nurse for as long due to a rare health complication. My mom, aunts, grandmas and great-aunts are my breastfeeding role models. In September I'll be starting training to become a lactation consultant and an ICBLC in 2016.

[REPLY](#)

Camie

7/21/2014 08:45:43

Wow! I am so excited to hear that you will be sitting the IBCLC exam in 2 years. There are not many of us "Native LCs" out there. Congratulations and thank you for Breastfeeding!

[REPLY](#)

Andrea

7/8/2014 20:29:13

As an RN and Lactation Consultant this brought me to tears of joy! Yes I have Cherokee blood and would love to help any Native woman who needs help, advice or support💕

[REPLY](#)

Starla

7/8/2014 20:53:03

I have two wonderful boys one is 4 years old(Bradley) the other is 5 months old (Mathew.) I breastfed Bradley for his first year. Mathew is breastfed too. With Mathew I notice when I pull my phone out he detaches and gives the "are you serious look" then when I put the phone down he starts to eat. I love that he wants my full attention. That's when I noticed that electronic devices get in the way sometimes. So now we have limits to all our devices. I think breastfeeding is great because it has let me bond with my boys and let's me spend more time with them. Plus saves you money.

[REPLY](#)

Monica

7/8/2014 20:55:04

I am citizen band potawatomi and cherokee, my so s still breastfeding at 2omths. I am not planning in stopping anytime soon.

[REPLY](#)

Court

7/8/2014 22:24:08

I'm Cherokee and I breastfed my son for 18 months! It's so important - thank you for this story and the comments.

We also need to make it easier to breastfeed, so I'd love to see nursing/pumping rooms at tribal complexes so employees and citizens can do what they need to do.

[REPLY](#)

Ora

7/8/2014 23:04:01

I'm Navajo and I have breastfed my 3 children for a total of 9 years...3 years each. With my first born daughter, I didn't know how I would feed her..but I am thankful for my mother in law who said "You will breastfeed." With another baby on the way, I know I will breastfeed for another 3 years.

[REPLY](#)

wendy

7/9/2014 03:16:54

I'm Shawnee and I breastfed both my girls till 2 so I was breastfeeding for 4 straight years when I took on a micro premie who I pumped milk for in the nicu. took into foster care until till her mom got her back but not before social services brought me 2 other babies. All breastfed. I would feed my nieces and nephew when they stayed with me and pumped milk for my sister in law when her milk failed. I think I've been lactating for 7 years. No different then my mom who breastfed her nephews, I don't know why people think there is anything sexual about nursing.

REPLY

Xilonen

7/9/2014 05:33:11

My nationality is Mexican and my ethnicity is Zapotec, so I consider myself as Native Mexican. I moved to United States few years ago to pursue my PhD, in my third year I got pregnant and I had a healthy and handsome boy in the States, in the beginning I felt lost, I was far from my country, my family, I did not know how to take care of him, but breastfeed him gave me intuition, I breastfeed him until he was three years old, and It was such a beautiful experience, it was my connection with my heritage, it helped me to understand one face of motherhood among my people and perceive the challenges that many Native Mexicans face in America, most of them do not know the taboos around breastfeed in United States, many of them decided do not breastfeed so they avoid being treat badly, others do not care they give the chichi and feed their babies, and they stay strong, they give me the best support ever. After some years in New York I returned to my country with my husband and my son, I am very grateful for my experience there, for the different kinds of parenthood that I could see, and for the lessons learned

REPLY

Camie

7/9/2014 07:34:05

Thank you so much for all of your responses. Please share your photos /stories with the hashtag #IMNATIVEANDBREASTFEED It's time to flood the internet with images of all of us. Aho Mamas!

REPLY

Ida

7/9/2014 07:35:34

I am full blooded Miccosukee - Seminole. I'm breastfeeding my 6 month old daughter and I breastfed her four siblings. My first two weren't successful so I gave up. I've had to supplement the last three but I didn't mind because we're all so busy. I wasn't taught by my mother but I read a lot about how it's much better for the baby so I decided to breastfeed. I nurse uncovered at home so my daughters and nieces will know that that's what a mother does for her child.

REPLY

Melissa Rainwater

7/9/2014 17:37:10

I am only a fraction native (maybe not enough to count, but it's important to me) I breastfed my son past age two, and now my daughter is two-and-a-half and still breastfed.

REPLY

Veronica Roberts Wheatley

7/9/2014 20:49:40

I am Seminole (a fraction close to 1/4) and am still breastfeeding my 20 month old. I tried like crazy with my first, now 6, but was unsuccessful. Luckily for her, my older sister was breastfeeding her second child at the same time and was able to help out my preemie! I am very proud of my heritage, and very proud to be a Lactation Consultant student. What a wonderful way to show our love for our children! Thank you for writing and sharing this!! I am very passionate about breastfeeding, and this caught my attention right away!

#IMNATIVEANDBREASTFEED

REPLY

Maggie

7/10/2014 01:28:42

I am 1/4th Lakota Sioux and I breastfed my daughter to age 2 and my son is currently nursing and I plan on nursing him to at least age 2 as well!

[REPLY](#)

Jen

7/10/2014 01:58:30

I am a quarter Ojibwe and breast fed my daughter until she was two years old. I am currently nursing my son who is 15 months old now and will continue until he decides he is done. Breastfeeding is an amazing gift that only mothers can give their babies. I love the beautiful bond and will forever cherish the time!!! Way to go Native Mamas!!!

[REPLY](#)

Lacee

7/10/2014 06:31:16

I'm United Keetoowah Band, have breastfed over 3 years and planning to tandem nurse my youngest and my new baby when s/he arrives in a few months. First was nursed 22 months, second is 17 months and still going strong thru my 3rd pregnancy.

[REPLY](#)

Dawn Miller

7/10/2014 06:50:51

I love this post and I love the "confessions!" I am 1/4 Suponi and Breastfed my first for over 3 years. I am now nursing my 8 week old. After such a long experience the first time I was a little sad about starting over again. But reading this and all the women's personal stories has inspired me. My oldest son is so healthy and so intelligent...but there's so much *more* to breastfeeding a child. Thank you for reminding me that it runs deeper than simply nourishing their bodies. Though that would be enough :)

[REPLY](#)

MJ

7/10/2014 18:42:55

I'm enrolled Yakama and had my first baby and so far he's only exclusively breastfed and breastmilk is given while at work. I love the fact that I'm his sole provider and source of nourishment. I wouldn't have it any other way.

[REPLY](#)

Jozi Child

7/11/2014 01:53:00

I'm a Kwakuitl mommy feeding my little Namgis/Kwakuitl baby. In my community a lot of woman do formula feed... I think majority of it has to do with how our nurses always advocate for formula. And most of our mothers come from a time where formula was promoted over breast. It only makes sense that we listen to our mothers, since "they raised us and we turned out fine". That's not the point though. I think we should do what we know is the best for our little people, look at how fast they grow and learn, they need the best they can get to nourish those little brains and bodies. I know it is created to have a lot of nutrition, but our bodies don't absorb everything from things like vitamin pills. We do best on something that is natural. I am a breast feeding advocate and I think that might throw a couple people off, but I'm hoping to encourage other women in my community to continue with breast feeding, beyond the 6month mark that we are always told that's all we need to do.

[REPLY](#)

Stacy D

7/11/2014 05:33:48

I'm 1/2 native (Apache, Shoshone, Hopi) and breastfed my oldest and currently nursing my 7 month old. I was a formula fed baby, and wanted to ensure both my boys were nursed after researching during my first pregnancy. I'll have been nursing 2 years (minus the 6 weeks before boy #2 was born) on July 24th. Extremely difficult at first, but so worth the challenges.

REPLY

apryl

7/11/2014 16:15:52

I'm Mohawk, and currently breastfeeding my seven month old. (We'll wean when he wants to). My mother breast Fed me for four months when the Dr told her to switch me to formula. She pumped in secret and made my formula with breast milk while also giving me expressed milk for over a year. My grandmother breast fed five children. My aunt breast fed seven. Her eldest daughter struggled with it, but breast fed three for at least six months. Her second daughter is currently breast feeding and plans to let the child decide when to stop.

My family tend to be rather milky.

REPLY

Bonita K →

7/11/2014 16:18:15

Thank you for publishing the positive.

REPLY

Donna →

7/11/2014 19:33:23

A friend posted this for me on Facebook, and I am so happy to see you write about breastfed babies! I wonder if this could be shared on my site?

REPLY

Camie

7/21/2014 08:53:18

What is your website Donna ? Feel free to email me directly nabcwa@gmail.com.

REPLY

Mary

12/11/2014 05:53:09

We met that day in April at UW. It was after the MS walk I'd done with my daughter. We talked in length about breastfeeding. I was at about 2 years in and now at 31 months :) though I'm weaning and about done, it's been the best journey for my daughter and I. She's strong, healthy and native!!

REPLY