

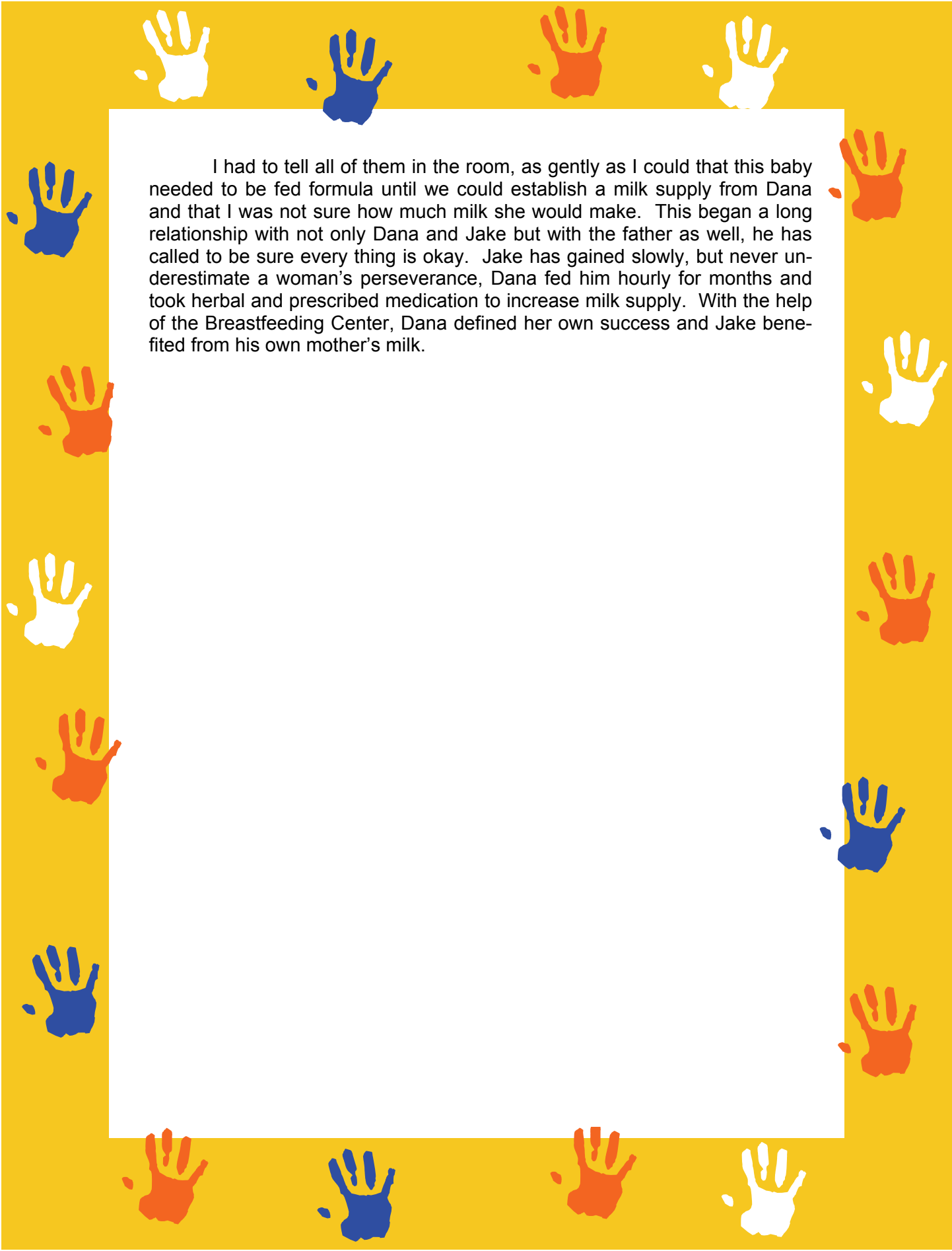


A Vignette by the Breastfeeding Support Center of Butte County

The Breastfeeding Support Center's first true clients will always be remembered. Dr. Wassermann referred the Ward family to the center because Ron III was jaundiced and not gaining weight. Not only did Mom come but Dad as well. This family was one that the newspaper reviewed as well and I think daddy Ron said it well, "As a man, you just want to turn a screw and fix things", he was frustrated and wanted the problems fixed now. We saw the Ward family 4 times over 2 weeks and gladly helped the mother increase her milk supply. Ron III began to gain weight quickly and the jaundice disappeared. We just saw baby Ron III last week and he is doing great and Mom was still so appreciative that the Breastfeeding Center opened right when she needed help. We are very glad to be open as well

Dana, a first time Mother called because her three day old baby was very fussy and frantic at the breast. She made an appointment to come into the center. When she arrived, not only was she here with her son, but also her husband and her mother. All five of us were in the consult room together. Jake did appear to have the frantic look of an infant that needed to be fed. His wail was piercing and he clutched at any one who would hold him.

Dana had prenatal care in San Francisco as well as in Chico. She had been seen by a minimum of two obstetricians and numerous nurses by the time I saw her. Not one had asked about breast reduction surgery. As a part of the intake form, one question we always ask is if the woman has had any breast surgery. Dana immediately told me about her breast reduction surgery when she was 18 years old. She described the surgery, which at the time she had it done was typical, and not conducive with breastfeeding. She did have some positive things because a number of years had gone by and she did have nipple sensation. I knew before I weighed the baby that we were not going to see much of an intake on his part and I also could see that Dana was not prepared to hear she could not provide breast milk for her infant. Many women who have had breast reduction surgery do not even consider breastfeeding and bottle-feed only. Other women who have had breast reductions try to breastfeed, but are ultimately unable to and others are defying conventional wisdom and successfully breastfeed their babies. I had just been to a conference on this very subject and began for the first time to help this mother successfully breastfeed her infant.



I had to tell all of them in the room, as gently as I could that this baby needed to be fed formula until we could establish a milk supply from Dana and that I was not sure how much milk she would make. This began a long relationship with not only Dana and Jake but with the father as well, he has called to be sure every thing is okay. Jake has gained slowly, but never underestimate a woman's perseverance, Dana fed him hourly for months and took herbal and prescribed medication to increase milk supply. With the help of the Breastfeeding Center, Dana defined her own success and Jake benefited from his own mother's milk.