**Research Proposal**

**Title: Evaluation of Feeding Patterns of Infants and Toddlers at WIC in San Marcos, Texas**

**Participant Selection**

**Study Population**

One-hundred and thirty participants of WIC in San Marcos, TX, with a child, aged 4 months-5 years, will be recruited for this study on a volunteer basis (see WIC approval letter in appendix).

**Eligibility Criteria**

Participants of WIC in San Marcos, TX, with a child aged 4 months-5 years will be eligible for this study.

**Ineligibility Criteria**

Participants with a child who is not within the age range of 4 months-5 years will be excluded.

**Data**

Confidentiality Authorized persons from Texas State University and the Institutional Review Board have the legal right to review participants’ research records and will protect the confidentiality of those records to the extent permitted by law. Research records will not be released without authorized consent from the participant unless required by law or a court order. All data will be de-identified and only the Principal Investigators will know the code. If the results of this research are published, presented at scientific meeting or summarized for WIC, the participants’ identities will not be disclosed. All research data and documents will be kept in a locked file cabinet in a locked room in the Family and Consumer Sciences Building. Only the identified researchers will have keys to the file cabinets. All digital data will be kept on secured computers located within the Family and Consumer Sciences Building and will require a password to access the information. Only the identified researchers will have passwords to access the digital data. Once the data is analyzed for research purposes, it will be shredded and discarded at Texas State University.

**Student Investigator/Requestor**

This will be thesis work for two graduate students. The MS in Human Nutrition at Texas State was launched in Fall 2008, and this project will support the thesis research of graduate students enrolled in the program and provide a new line of investigation for Dr. Crixell. While Dr. Crixell has researched the child nutrition programs in Texas, conducted weight management research with MA women in San Marcos, and collaborated with WIC through student internships, this will be her first investigation of the use of complementary foods in MA infants. Dr. Crixell has successfully completed CITI training (see appendix).

Undergraduate students registered for NUTR 4101, an independent research course, will aid in recruitment and data collection after thorough training with the Principal Investigator and graduate students.

**Appendix**

* WIC Approval Letter
* Recruitment Flyer in English and Spanish
* Screening form
* Consent Form Reading Comprehension Level Explanation
* Consent Form in English
* Consent Form in Spanish
* Food Amount Booklet
* Feeding Practices Questionnaire
* Demographic Form
* Health History Form
* Thank You Letter in English
* Thank You Letter in Spanish
* CITI Training Certificate (Dr. Crixell)