

Lab 1 - Version 1

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1 Introduction

BabyBites is designed to help you navigate the transition from milk to solids and beyond. It removes the uncertainty from feeding with expert resources and alert notifications, ensuring your child's meals are safe and nutritious.

1.1 Societal Problem

The process of transitioning a baby from milk to solid foods and eventually, to more complex meals appropriate for toddlers is a crucial, yet challenging, phase for many parents and caregivers.

Typically, babies begin this transition around six months, starting with pureed foods before gradually moving to more textured solids¹. This can be overwhelming for parents and caregivers, as it can be difficult to know which foods are safe at various stages, how to prepare them, and when to introduce certain utensils.

This transition goes beyond simply feeding, it is about fostering safe, balanced nutrition while supporting babies and toddlers in developing essential eating skills and independence.

1.2 Solution - BabyBites

Introducing BabyBites, the ultimate mobile-first web application to simplify and safeguard your babies' and toddlers' feeding journey. From the first spoonful of purees to mastering utensils, BabyBites takes the stress out of transitioning from milk to solids and beyond. Designed to reduce overwhelm, the application ensures balanced nutrition and helps babies and toddlers develop healthy eating habits.

This challenging transition is made easier with BabyBites, complete with features such as: a personalized baby profile, a food tracker, a food database, daily reports, and alert notifications.

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BabyBites provides parents and caregivers with expert-backed resources, meal preparation tips, alerts about allergies, choking hazards, and developmental milestones that will give parents and caregivers the peace of mind and the confidence to nurture their child's growth.

2 Product Description

The BabyBites mobile-first web application has many characteristics that make it the best choice for many.

2.1 Key Product Features and Capabilities

BabyBites will:

- Guide Parents/Caregivers through food transitions
- Offer food database and nutrition information through FoodData Central API
- Track food/milk intake
- Provide food preparation guidance
- Provide access to expert resources
- Send alert notifications
- Generate daily reports

BabyBites will not:

- Prepare or Deliver Meals
- Create Personalized Meal Plans
- Provide Real-Time Emergency Support
- Identify or Diagnose Medical Conditions
- Track Non-Feeding Related Milestones
- Provide Communication with Healthcare Providers

Figure 1 compares BabyBites with other related applications.

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Features	BabyBites	Baby Tracker	Huckleberry	Solid Starts	Glow Baby	Baby Connect
Create Baby Profile	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Track Food Intake	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Food Database	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
Food Nutrition Information	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Utensil Usage Guide	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Meal Preparation Guide	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Expert Resources	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
No Ads	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Mobile Website	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Mobile App	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No paywall	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Choking Hazards	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Allergen Information	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
Daily Reports	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Alert Notifications	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Figure 1: Competition Matrix

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2.2 Major Components (Hardware/Software)

In order to operate, Baby Bites will rely on few different components, both on the hardware and software side.

2.2.1 Hardware

A computer or mobile device with internet access will be all the hardware required to run the application, keeping it easily accessible.

2.2.2 Software

For software, BabyBites will use the VSCode IDE, as it supports multiple programming languages. The team will use GitHub Issues to manage the project and keep track of everyone's progress. BabyBites will use GitHub as Version Control, HTML CSS and JavaScript for front end, and Django and Python for back end. The database will be in PostgreSQL, FoodData Central API. The team will use Django for testing, and PyDoc and JSDoc for documentation. The hosting will be local during development and testing, and ultimately through ODU for the demonstration. Figure 2 illustrates some of the software to be used.

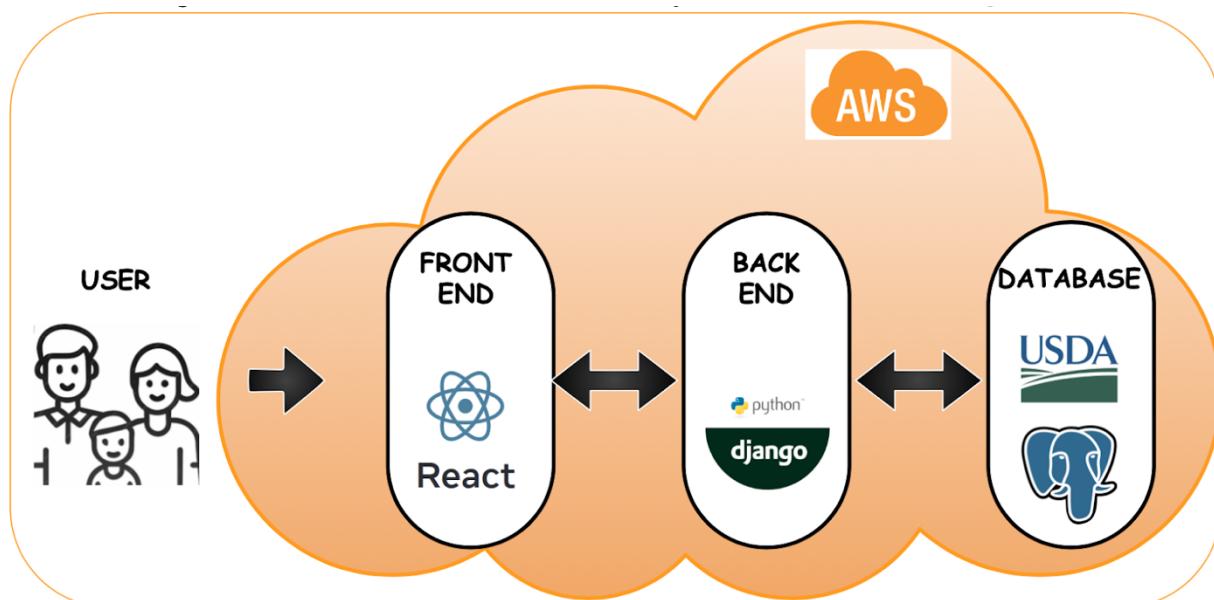


Figure 2: Major Functional Components Diagram

3 Identification of Case Study

BabyBites is being developed with a clear purpose and target consumer in mind, but it can also easily expand its consumer base as it grows.

3.1 Case Study Group

This product is being developed for new parents and caregivers who are trying to transition their child's diet and eating habits from milk to purees, or purees to solids, as well those looking to teach utensil usage.

3.2 What it will be used for

BabyBites will provide essential resources to new parents and caregivers, such as, a food database to search relevant information on chosen foods, a food tracker to log what has been fed to the child, a daily report to summarize information pertinent to the child, preparation tips to assist feeding different types of food, and supplemental expert-backed resource.

3.3 Future Use

As the application evolves it could also be used by experienced parents and daycares.

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4 Glossary

Baby Profile - A user-created profile to categorize their children within the application.

Daily Report - A summary of user milestones and pertinent information regarding their child (i.e. food consumption, milestones, allergies).

Dashboard - The home page of the user. It features shortcuts to relevant pages and displays daily reports.

Filter - A sorting function that will allow specific items to be displayed based on input.

Food Database - A comprehensive database that allows users to look up various food, view nutritional information and access preparation tips.

Food Tracker - A log the user can modify to maintain a history of foods given to the child.

FoodData Central API - USDA's database for food that will be used as a source of information for the BabyBite's food datatable.

IDE (Integrated Development Environment) - A software application, such as VSCode, that provides tools for writing, testing, and debugging code.

Notification - An alert that will notify the user of important information (i.e. allergies, choking hazards).

Search - BabyBites' food searching feature.

User - Any person who has created an account and utilizes the application.

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