CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. ~~A method of reducing the onset of allergies in a child of about two years of age or older, comprising the step of administering to the child, when the child is an infant, a nutritional~~ Use of a composition comprising a fat or lipid source, a carbohydrate source, and a protein source comprising whey and casein proteins in the manufacture of a nutritional composition for reducing the onset of allergies in a child of about two years of age or older, wherein the ratio of whey to casein proteins in the protein source is from about 50:50 to about 70:30 by weight and wherein the degree of hydrolysis of the whey and casein proteins included in the protein source is from about 4% to about 10%, ~~wherein~~ when the child is an infant, the nutritional composition is to administered to the child and administration of the nutritional composition increases the concentration of fecal secretory IgA in the child.

2. The use ~~method~~ of claim 1, wherein the nutritional composition further comprises a probiotic source.

3. The use~~method~~ according to claim 2, wherein the probiotic source comprises a probiotic selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus* species, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG, *Bifidobacterium* species, *Bifidobacterium longum, Bifidobacterium animalis subsp. lactis* BB-12, and combinations thereof.

4. The use~~method~~ according to claim 3, wherein the probiotic source comprises *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG.

5. The use~~method~~ of claim 1, wherein the child has a family history of allergies.

6. The use~~method~~ according to claim 1, wherein the child is at risk of developing one or more allergic manifestations selected from the group consisting of allergic colititis, allergic enterocolitis, allergic esophagatis, allergic gastroesophagitis, allergic urticaria, atopic dermatitis, an allergic reaction to cow's milk, an allergic reaction to egg, an allergic reaction to soy, an allergic reaction to house dust, an allergic reaction to mites, gut inflammation and combinations thereof.

7. The use~~method~~ according to claim 1, wherein the administration of the nutritional composition increases the concentration of fecal secretory IgA in the child.

8. The use~~method~~ according to claim 1, wherein the nutritional composition is a weaning formula.

9. The use~~method~~ according to claim 1, wherein the nutritional composition is to be administered to the child when the child is an infant of about six months of age or younger

10. The use~~method~~ according to claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate source comprises between about 15% and about 55% lactose by weight.

11. The use~~method~~ according to claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate source comprises between about 20% and about 30% lactose by weight.

12. The use~~method~~ according to claim 1, wherein the fat or lipid source is present at a level of about 3 g/100 kcal to about 7 g/100 kcal.

13. The use~~method~~ according to claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate source is present at a level of about 8 g/100 kcal to about 12 g/100 kcal.

14. The use~~method~~ according to claim 1, wherein protein source is present at a level of about 1 g/100 kcal to about 5 g/100 kcal.

15. The use~~method~~ according to claim 1, wherein the carbohydrate source further comprises a prebiotic composition.

16. The use~~method~~ according to claim 1, wherein the degree of hydrolysis of the whey and casein proteins included in the protein source is from about 6% to about 9%.

17. The use~~method~~ according to claim 1, wherein the whey and casein proteins in the protein source have the following molecular weight distribution:

Molar Mass (in Daltons)	% Molecular Weight Distribution
<500	11-20
500-1000	25-38
1000-2000	27-30
2000-3000	8-16
3000-5000	3-10
>5000	2-11.

18. The use~~method~~ according to claim 1, wherein the whey and casein proteins in the protein source have the following molecular weight distribution:

Molar Mass (in D altons)	% Molecular Weight Distribution

<500	17
500-1000	35.1
1000-2000	30.9
2000-3000	9.6
3000-5000	4.2
>5000	2.8.

19. ~~A method of reducing the onset of allergies in a human, comprising the step of administering to the human, when the human is an infant, a nutritional~~ Use of a composition comprising a fat or lipid source, a carbohydrate source, a probiotic source and a protein source comprising whey and casein proteins in the manufacture of a nutritional composition for reducing the onset of allergies in a human, wherein the ratio of whey to casein proteins in the protein source is from about 50:50 to about 70:30 by weight and wherein the degree of hydrolysis of the whey and casein proteins included in the protein source is from about 4% to about 10%, wherein when the human is an infant, the human is to be administered the nutritional composition and wherein administration of the nutritional composition increases the concentration of fecal secretory IgA in the child.

20. The use~~method~~ according to claim 19, wherein the human has a family history of allergies.