



Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma Policy

Belief Statement

We, Training Wheels Child Care Center, believe that preventing, recognizing, responding to, and reporting shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma (SBS/AHT) is an important function of keeping children safe, protecting their development, providing quality care, and educating families.

Procedure/Practice

Recognizing

- Children are observed for signs of abusive head trauma including irritability and/or high pitched crying, difficulty staying awake/lethargy or loss of consciousness, difficulty breathing, inability to lift head, seizures, lack of appetite, vomiting, bruises, poor feeding/sucking, no smiling or vocalization, inability of the resulting from gripping or from hitting the head.

Responding to:

- If SBS/ABT is suspected, staff will
 - Call 911 immediately upon suspecting SBS/AHT and inform the doctor
 - Call the parents/guardians
 - If the child has stopped breathing, trained staff will begin pediatric CPR

Reporting

- Instances of suspected child maltreatment in child care are reported to the Office of Child Development Protective Services (OCDEL) Pittsburgh division by calling (412) 565-5183
- Instances of suspected child maltreatment in the home are reported to the Allegheny County Department of Child, Youth and Family Services social services at (412) 350- 3600

Prevention strategies to assist staff in coping with a crying, fussing, or distraught child

Staff first determine if the child has any physical needs such as being hungry, tired, or sick. If no physical need is identified, staff will attempt one or more of the following strategies:

- Rock the child, hold the child close, or walk with the child.
- Stand up, hold the child close and repeatedly bend knees.
- Sing or talk to the child in a soothing voice
- Gently rub or stroke the child's back.
- Offer the child a toy
- Turn on white noise or music
- Take the child for a walk

In addition, the facility:

- Allows for staff who feel they may lose control to have a short, but relatively immediate break away from children
- Provides support when parents/guardians are trying to calm a crying child and encourage parents to take a calming break if needed.

Prohibited Behaviors

Behaviors that are prohibited include (but are not limited to):

- Shaking or jerking a child

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- Tossing a child into the air or chair
- Pushing a child into walls, doors, or furniture

Strategies to assist staff member understand how to care for infants

Staff reviews and discusses:

- How to Care for Infants and Toddlers in Groups, the National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families, www.zerotothree.org/resources/77-how-to-care-for-infants-and-toddlers-in-groups
- Including Relationship-Based care Practices for Infant-Toddler Care: Implications for Practice and Policy, the Network of Infant/Toddler Researchers, page 7-9
www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/nitr-inquire_may_2016_070616_b508compliant.pdf

Strategies to ensure staff members understand the brain development of children up to five years of age

All staff take training on SBS/AHT within the 90 days of employment. Training includes recognizing, responding to, and reporting child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment as well as the brain development of children up to five years of age. Staff review and discuss:

- Brain Development from Birth video, the national Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families, www.zerotothree.org/resources/156-brain-wonders-nurturing-healthy-brain-development-from-birth
- The Science of Early Childhood Development, Center for Developing Child, www.developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-science-of-eed/

Parent Web resources

- The American Academy of Pediatrics: www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Abusive-Head-Trauma-Shaken-Baby-Syndrome.aspx
- The National Center of Shaken Baby Syndrome: <http://dontshake.org/family-resources>
- The Period of Purple Crying: <http://purplecrying.info/>

Facility web resources

- Caring for Our Children, Standard 3.4.4.3 Preventing and Identifying Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma, <http://cfoc.nrckids.org/StandardView.cfm?StdNum=3.4.4.3&=#>
- Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, http://centerforchildwelfare.org/kb/trprev/Preventing_SBS_508-a.pdf
Early Development & Well-Being, Zero to Three, www.zerotothree.org/early-development

Application

This policy applies to children up to five years of age and their families, operators, early educators, substitute providers, and uncompensated providers.

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Communication

Staff*

- Within 30 days of adopting this policy, the child care facility shall review the policy with all staff who provide care for up to five years of age.
- All current staff members and newly hired staff will be trained in SBS/ AHT before providing care for children up to five years of age.
- Staff will sign and acknowledge the form that includes the individual's name, the date the center's policy was given and explained to the individual, the individual's signature, and the date the individual signed the acknowledgement.
- The child care facility shall keep the **SBS/AHT staff acknowledgement form** in the staff members file.

Parents/Guardians

- Within 30 days of adopting this policy , the childcare facility shall review the policy with parents/guardians of currently enrolled children up to five years of age.
- A copy of the policy will be given and explained to the parents/guardians of newly enrolled children up to five years of age on or before the first day the child receives care at the facility.
- Parents/guardians will sign an acknowledgement form that includes the child's name, date the child first attended the facility, date the operator's policy was given and explained to the parent, parent's name, parent signature, and the date the parent signed the acknowledgement.
- The child care facility shall keep the SBS/AHT parent acknowledgement form in the child's file.

_____ 5-1-22 _____
Effective Date

This policy was reviewed and approved by:

Owner/Director (recommended)

Date

DHS Representative

Date

Annual Review Dates

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Parent or guardian acknowledgement form

I, the parent or guardian of _____
Child's name

Acknowledges that I have read and received a copy of the facility's Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma Policy.

Date policy given/explained to parent/guardian

Date of child's enrollment

Print name of parent /guardian

Signature of parent/guardian

Date