

## Crossroads: Policy Update

In accordance with regulation C-23-02 by the State of Pennsylvania, Crossroads is adding the following policies to our Parent and Staff Handbooks. All programs are required to have policy in place in regard to Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma as well as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, regardless of whether or not the program serves infants/toddlers.

SBS/AHT is the name given to a form of physical child abuse that occurs when an infant or small child is violently shaken and/or there is trauma to the head. Shaking may last only a few seconds but can result in severe injury or even death. Preventing, recognizing, responding to, and reporting shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma (SBS/AHT) it is an important function of keeping children safe, protecting healthy development, providing quality childcare, and educating families.

All staff receive a comprehensive health and safety training in their first 90 days that covers children ages 0-13, including SBS/AHT and SiDS. All our staff complete additional health and safety trainings relevant to school-age children annually.

### **Recognizing SBS/AHT:**

Signs of SBS/AHT are irritability, high pitched crying, difficulty staying awake, loss of consciousness, difficulty breathing, inability to lift the head, seizures, lack of appetite, vomiting, bruising, poor feeding or sucking, no smiling or vocalizations, inability of eyes to track and/or decreased muscle tone.

### **Responding to SBS/AHT:**

If SBS/AHT is suspected, the provider and/or assistant will:

- Call 911 immediately
- Begin cpr/first aid if needed
- Instances of suspected child abuse or mistreatment will be reported to Childline.

### **Prevention Strategies:**

When infants/young children are upset or crying, remaining calm and responding in the following ways often remedy the situation.

- Make sure child does not need diaper change, feeding or have a fever or other symptoms of illness
- 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, chest or tummy
- Offer a pacifier or try to distract the child with a rattle or toy
- Take the child for a ride in a stroller
- Turn on music or white noise

- We will also provide support when parents/guardians are trying to calm a crying child and encourage parents to take a calming break.

### **Safe Sleep Practices:**

To prevent cases of sudden infant death syndrome it is important that infants sleep in cribs approved by CPSC (Consumer Products Safety Commission.) Cribs should have a firm mattress with no gaps and should NOT include soft bedding (quilts, pillows, stuffed toys, etc.) If an infant falls asleep in a play space, they should be moved to their crib. Infants should be placed on their backs to sleep.

Parents and caregivers should be within sight and sound of sleeping infants. Periodically checking on sleeping infants (every 15-20 minutes) is recommended if using a baby monitor or in another room from the infant.

### **More information for parents/staff can be found online:**

American Academy of Pediatrics

[www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Abusive-Head-Trauma-Shaken-Baby-Syndrome.aspx](http://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Abusive-Head-Trauma-Shaken-Baby-Syndrome.aspx)

The National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome

<http://dontshake.org/family-resources>

The period of Purple Crying: <http://purplecrying.info/>

### **Application Plan:**

These policies have been developed in line with the new regulations put into place by DHS, our licensing body. They are effective immediately, and all families have been given a copy of the new policies.

The policies have also been reviewed by Staff.

As this is a new policy, we are required to have a signed acknowledgement on file. Please sign and return the form found in your child's folder/ cubbie. Thank you.