



Prevention of Shaken Baby and Abusive Head Trauma Policy 2017

Belief Statement

We, Kids R Kids West Cary, 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 healthy development, providing quality child care and educating families.

Background

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 only last a few seconds but can result in severe injury or even death. According to the North Carolina Child Care Rule (child care centers, 10A BCAC 09 .0608), each child care facility licensed to care for children up to five years of age shall develop and adopt a policy to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma.

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 the head, seizures, lack of appetite, vomiting, bruises, poor feeding/sucking, no smiling or vocalization, inability of the eyes to track and/ or decreased muscle tone. Bruises may be found on the upper arms, rib cage, or head resulting from gripping or from hitting the head.

Responding to:

- If SBS/AHT is suspected, staff will:
 - Call 911 immediately upon suspecting SBS/AHT and inform the Principal/ Assistant Principal.
 - 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 Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) by calling 1.800.859.0829 or by emailing webmasterdcd@dhhs.nc.gov.
- Instances of suspected child maltreatment in the home are reported to the county Department of Social Services. Phone number: 919.212.7990.

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

Staff first determines if the child has any physical needs such as being hungry, tired, sick or in need of a diaper change. 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.
- Sing or talk to the child in a soothing voice.
- Gently rub or stroke the child's back, chest, or tummy.
- Try to distract the child the child with a toy, rattle or age appropriate activity.
- Take the child for a ride in a stroller.
- Turn on music or white noise.

In addition, the facility:

- Allows staff to have short breaks away from the children in order to remain calm during stressful situations.
- Provides support when parents/guardians are trying to calm a crying child and encourage parents to remain calm during stressful situations.

Prohibited behaviors

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

- Shaking or jerking a child
- Tossing a child into the air or into a crib, chair, or car seat
- Pushing a child into walls, doors, or furniture
- Picking up children by the neck

Strategies to assist staff members to understand how to care for infants

Staff reviews and discusses:

Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma (Pro Solutions Training Course)

Staff Also reviews:

- Brain Development: Amazing Brains, Amazing Babies - Physical Well-Being, Stress and Trauma
- Conscious Discipline Social Emotional Curriculum- Becky Bailey, I love You Rituals (activities and exercises to assist with challenging behaviors)

Parental 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 on Shaken Baby Syndrome

Family web resources:

- Caring for Our Children, Standard 3.4.4.3 Preventing and Identifying Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive
- Head Trauma
- Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Parent acknowledgement form

I, the parent or guardian of _____(Child's Name)
Acknowledge that I have read and received a copy of the facility's Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma
Policy.

Date Policy Given

Date of child's enrollment

Printed name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian