

Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma Policy

Shaken baby syndrome is completely preventable. Taking care of a baby can present challenges. It is important to remember that it is never acceptable to shake, throw or hit a baby.

I believe that preventing, recognizing and responding to, and reporting Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive head Trauma is an important function of keeping children safe, protecting their healthy development, providing quality child care and education families.

The signs and symptoms of shaken baby syndrome or head trauma include:

- 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, or difficulty sucking or swallowing
- Poor feeding/sucking
- No smiling or vocalization
- Inability of the eyes to track and/or decreased muscle tone
- Bruises which may be found on the upper arms, rib cage or head resulting from gripping or hitting the head

Strategies to Prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome or Head Trauma:

- First I will determine if the infant has any physical needs such as being hungry, tired, sick, or in need of a diaper change.
- Rock the infant, hold the infant close, or walk with the infant
- Sing or talk to the infant in a soothing voice
- Gently run or stroke the infant's back, chest, or tummy
- Offer a pacifier or try to distract the infant with a toy
- Take the infant for a ride in a stroller
- Turn on music or other white noise
- Call the parent and explain what is happening and what I have done, ask them to pick the child up