Welcome to CCEI118

This course addresses the importance of understanding and preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome, a devastating form of physical child abuse that can occur in homes as well as in the child care environment.

Course Objectives:

By taking notes on the handout and successfully answering assessment questions, participants will meet the following objectives as a result of taking this course:

- Define shaken baby syndrome
- Identify the causes of shaken baby syndrome
- Identify the symptoms of shaken baby syndrome
- Identify long-term effects of shaken baby syndrome
- Identify strategies and practices for preventing shaken baby syndrome in the child care setting
- Identify tips for educating parents about shaken baby syndrome

References:


National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education, Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards:


Define **Shaken Baby Syndrome:**

The Centers for Disease Control statistics indicate that female child care providers are responsible for
The Causes of Shaken Baby Syndrome

Problems occur if the parent or caregiver is:
1.

2.

3.

Statistics also tell us that the perpetrators of shaken baby syndrome are likely to:
1.

2.

3.

4.

The Symptoms of Shaken Baby Syndrome:

Severe cases:

Less severe cases:

The Long-Term Effects of Shaken Baby Syndrome

Shaken baby syndrome often causes irreversible damage. 25% percent of all babies who experience SBS die. Babies who survive SBS may suffer from:
What To Do When You Suspect Shaken Baby Syndrome

Emergency procedures if an infant is found unresponsive:
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

DO NOT!
1.
2.

Shaken baby syndrome is considered child abuse. As a child care professional, you are mandated to report child abuse. Follow the Policies and Procedures your center has in place regarding the reporting of child abuse.

Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome in the Child Care Setting
See Job Aide for printable tips for caregivers.

Helping Parents Understand Shaken Baby Syndrome:
See Job Aide for printable tips for parents.
Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome

Tips for Caregivers

- Know the dangers associated with shaking babies
- Have options for dealing with crying babies
- Have a plan in place for early care professionals to follow if they become frustrated with a crying infant

If a baby is crying inconsolably, consider the following:

- Are the baby’s needs met? Is the baby hungry or does the baby’s diaper need to be changed?
- Is the baby sick?
- Try to sing or talk to the baby
- Offer the baby a pacifier
- Try to distract the baby with a noisy toy
- Try holding the baby closely while breathing calmly
- Call a coworker to take the baby while you take a break
- Try introducing white noises or rhythmic sounds to mimic the noise in the womb
- Rock the baby gently to mimic the motion that the baby felt in the womb
Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome

Tips for Parents

DO NOT:

• Shake a baby or child either in play or in anger
• Hold your baby during an argument
• Ignore the signs of child abuse
• Ignore the symptoms of Shaken Baby Syndrome

DO:

• Put your baby in a crib and leave the room if you become angry
• Try to calm down
• Call someone for support
• Call a friend or relative to stay with the child if you feel out of control
• Contact a local hotline for help and guidance
• Seek a counselor for help dealing with your crying baby
• Attend parenting classes to learn how to deal with your crying baby
• Educate fathers, brothers, boyfriends, husbands and other males about the dangers of shaking your baby. Statistics tell us that in 60 – 90 percent of Shaken Baby Syndrome incidences the perpetrator is a male in his early twenties, usually the baby’s father or mother’s boyfriend
• Educate everyone who cares for your child
• Understand that Shaken Baby Syndrome may result in death, permanent brain damage, learning disabilities, paralysis, deafness, etc.
• Understand that Shaken Baby Syndrome is completely preventable