

Children's Campus 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.

**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. According to North Carolina Child Care Rule 10A NCAC 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 SBS/AHT.

### **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.

Responding to:

- If SBS/ABT is suspected, staff will:
  - Call 911 immediately upon suspecting SBS/AHT and inform the director.
  - Call the parents/guardians.
  - If the child has stopped breathing, trained staff will begin pediatric CPR<sup>4</sup>.

Reporting:

- Staff will immediately report any concerns of suspected maltreatment to the Director
- Instances of suspected child maltreatment in child care are reported to Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) by calling 1-800-859-0829 or by emailing [webmasterdcd@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:webmasterdcd@dhhs.nc.gov).

### **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, 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.
- 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.

In addition, the facility:

- Allows for staff to have an immediate break away from the children at any time.
- Ensure all staff are trained in a minimum of three hours **Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma** including, but not limited to:
  - Recognizing and Responding to Suspicions of Child Maltreatment
  - Brain Development: Amazing Brains, Amazing Babies - Physical Well-Being, Stress and Trauma
- 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
- tossing a child into the air or into a crib, chair, or car seat
- pushing a child into walls, doors, or furniture

**Application**

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

**Communication**

Staff

- Within 30 days of adopting this policy, the child care facility shall review the policy with all staff who provide care for children 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 an acknowledgement 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 acknowledgment
- Children's Campus shall keep the **SBS/AHT staff acknowledgement form** in the staff member's file.

Parents/Guardians

- Within 30 days of adopting this policy, the child care 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's signature, and the date the parent signed the acknowledgement
- Children's Campus shall keep the **SBS/AHT parent acknowledgement form** in the child's file.

\* For purposes of this policy, "staff" includes teachers, administration staff, volunteers, and any contracted individual who may be responsible for the safety of the children enrolled with Children's Campus.

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02/01/2017

Effective Date

This policy was reviewed and approved by:

Amy Bayette

2/6/17

Date

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Annual Review Dates



**Staff acknowledgement form:**

I \_\_\_\_\_ (name) acknowledge that I have read and received a copy of the facility's Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma Policy.

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**Date policy given/explained to staff person**

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**Staff signature**

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**Date**