

Shaking Baby Syndrome

Bundles For Babies

Shaken Baby Syndrome

- What is it?
- It is a form of head trauma inflicted by others.
- It can be caused by direct blows to the head, dropping or throwing a child
- It is a form of abuse

Who Are the Common Victims?

- Children under one year of age
- Average age is 3 to 8 months, but it is seen in children up to 4 years old.

Who are the Perpetrators?

- In all most all cases it is parents or care providers
- They do this because they are:
 - Frustrated
 - Stressed
 - Usually because they cannot quiet the child
 - This technique works as the child gradually stops crying after the brain damage occurs

Survivors Face the Following

- Partial or total blindness
- Hearing Loss
- Seizures
- Developmental delays
- Impaired Intellect
- Speech and Learning Difficulties

More Symptoms

- Problems with memory or attention
- Severe mental retardation
- Paralysis to up to and include coma

Less Severe Symptoms

- Lethargy
- Irritability
- Vomiting
- Poor Sucking or Swallowing
- Decreased Appetite
- Lack of smiling or vocalizing
- Rigidity

More Less Severe Symptoms

- Seizures
- Difficulty breathing
- Altered consciousness
- Unequal pupil size
- Inability to lift head
- Inability to focus eyes or track movement

Use the “Five S’s”

- Shush or rhythmic sounds that mimic the constant whir of noise in the womb, with things like vacuum cleaners, hair dryers, clothes dryers, running the tub or a white noise CD.
- Side/stomach positioning (placing the baby on the left side – to help digestion – or on the belly while holding him or her, then putting the sleeping baby in the crib/bassinette on his or her back.

Use the “Five S’s”

- Sucking (letting the baby breastfeed or bottle-feed, or give the baby a pacifier to suck on)
- Swaddling (wrapping the baby up snugly in a blanket to help him or her feel more secure)
- Swinging gently (rocking in a chair , using an infant swing, or taking a car ride to help duplicate the constant motion the baby felt in the womb)

Other Ideas to Hush A Crying Baby

- Make sure the baby's basic needs are met (for example make sure the child is not hungry or does not need to be changed)
- Check for signs of illness, like fever or swollen gums
- Rock or talk to the baby
- Offer the baby a pacifier or a noisy toy
- Take the baby for a ride in a stroller or strapped into a child safety seat in the car

Other Ideas to Hush A Crying Baby

- Hold the baby close against your body and breathe calmly and slowly
- Call a friend or relative for support or take care of the baby on his back or her back in the crib, close the door, and check on the baby in ten minutes.
- Call your child's doctor if nothing seems to be helping your infant, in case there is a medical reason for the fussiness

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