**PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

**1135. Infant Safety Education and Intervention**

**Approval**: Jennifer Strus, Assistant Secretary

**Effective Date:** October 31, 2014

**Sunset Review:** September 30, 2018

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**Purpose**

Children’s Administration is committed to improving child safety outcomes for children under one year of age through early intervention and education with caregivers. Data indicates children birth to one year are the primary victims of critical incidents. They are the most vulnerable to risk of harm from decreased parental capacity due to alcohol/or drugs, sleep-related deaths and maltreatment such as Shaken Baby Syndrome and blunt-force head trauma.

**Laws**

[P.L. 11-320 Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) of 2010](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/capta2010.pdf).

**Policy**

Note: The requirements listed in this policy do not apply to children who are placed out-of-state through Interstate Compact and Placement of Children.

**A. Newborn: Plan of Safe Care**

Assigned DCFS staff must develop and document a [Plan of Safe Care](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/pubs/mnl_pnpg/chapter2_2500.asp#2552) on all:

* 1. Screened-in intakes that identify a newborn as AFFECTED by substance(s); and
  2. Newborns born to a dependent youth.

**B. Birth to 6 months: Period of Purple Crying**

1. Assigned DCFS staff will inquire if parents or caregivers have previously received information on Period of Purple Crying when working with families.
2. DLR Licensors will inquire if parents or caregivers have previously received information on Period of Purple Crying when licensing or approving a home study for families accepting placements.
3. Assigned CA staff will provide Period of Purple Crying educational materials to any parent/caregiver who has not previously received information.
4. Document when and if the caregiver received the information on Period of Purple Crying.

**C. Birth to One Year: Infant Safe Sleep**

1. Assigned CA staff will **conduct a safe sleep assessment** when placing a child in a new placement setting or completing a CPS intervention involving a child aged birth to one year, **even if the child is not identified as an alleged victim or an identified child.**
   1. **The assessment must be completed where the child primarily resides.**
   2. **DLR CPS investigators will review the licensed facility environment for safe sleep.**
2. When licensing or approving a home study with families accepting placements for infants, the home study workers will assess the sleeping environment and educate the family on safe sleep practices.
3. **Document the results of the safe sleep assessment.**

**Procedures**

**A. Birth to 6 months: Period of Purple Crying**

Assigned DCFS and Home Study staff must:

1. Determine if the parent/caregiver (licensed or unlicensed) has already received the “Period of PURPLE Crying” education and DVD/booklet.
   1. If already received, discuss any questions the caregiver may have regarding Period of PURPLE Crying.
   2. If not received:
      1. Provide the “Period of PURPLE Crying” education and DVD/booklet. Review and discuss the information outlined in the booklet. The following key points should be relayed to caregivers:
         1. Teach what the letters “PURPLE” stand for as well as why understanding normal infant crying is important.
         2. Reinforce to families that if an infant is crying and they become frustrated they should put the infant down in a safe environment.
         3. Explain that caregiver’s frustration due to Period of Purple Crying may cause the caregiver to shake the baby which can result in significant, if not life threatening, effects.
      2. Play the 10 minute “PURPLE” video for the caregivers after your presentation of the booklet if resources are available.
         1. Emphasize the importance of the material presented.
         2. Reinforce to the caregivers that all persons who will be caring for their infant should review this information.
         3. Remind caregivers about the 17-minute soothing film on the DVD to help caregivers understand ways to soothe their baby and cope with inconsolable crying periods.
2. Document in a case note or provider note:
   * 1. When the caregiver receives or has previously received the Period of Purple Crying education and materials, or
     2. If the caregiver refused to discuss the Period of Purple Crying materials.

**B. Birth to One Year: Infant Safe Sleep**

Assigned DCFS and Home Study staff must:

1. **Complete a safe sleep assessment with the caregiver by:**
   1. **Reviewing the Infant Safe Sleep Guidelines (DSHS 22-1577) with caregivers of infants younger than 12 months during the first in-person meeting.**
   2. Assessing for a safe sleep environment using the Infant Safe Sleep Guidelines **(DSHS 22-1577).**
2. **Engage the caregiver to create a safe sleep environment if one does not exist.**
3. **Consult with his or her supervisor when there are additional risk factors (e.g., substance abuse, mental health issues, etc.) associated with a caregiver’s ability to maintain child safety and a safe sleep environment.**
4. **Documentation will include:**
   1. **Results of safe sleep assessment (if needed) in the Investigative Assessment, FAR Family Assessment, Comprehensive Family Evaluation, Home Study or provider note, whichever is most appropriate.**
   2. **If the caregiver refused to participate in the process of creating a safe sleep environment for the child.**
   3. **Any safety concerns or risk factors identified in licensed facilities will be immediately shared with the licensor.**

**Forms and Tools**

Period of Purple Crying links:

<http://www.dontshake.org/video/purplecrying/PURPLE-English.mp4>

<http://www.dontshake.org/video/purplecrying/PURPLE-Spanish.mp4>

**Infant Safe Sleep Assessment Guidelines (DSHS 22-1577)**

[Safe Sleep for Your Baby Every Time brochure](http://here.doh.wa.gov/materials/safe-sleep) – Available in English and Spanish

A program of the Safe Sleep campaign:

<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/sts/about/Pages/default.aspx>

The following free materials (available in [English](http://www.dontshake.org/video/purplecrying/PURPLE-English.mp4) and [Spanish](http://www.dontshake.org/video/purplecrying/PURPLE-Spanish.mp4)) from the [Safe to Sleep](http://www.nichd.nih.gov/sts/Pages/default.aspx) campaign and will be available in local offices for distribution to families caring for infants under the age of one year:

* [*Safe Sleep for Your Baby: Reduce the Risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome*](http://www.nichd.nih.gov/sts/materials/Pages/default.aspx) *(SIDS) and Other Sleep-Related Causes of Infant Death(available for a variety of target audiences including grandparents)*
* *What does a safe sleep environment look like?* [*Reduce the Risk of SIDS and Other Sleep-Related Causes of Infant Death*](http://www.nichd.nih.gov/sts/materials/Pages/default.aspx)

[*Honor the Past, Learn for the Future*](http://www.nichd.nih.gov/sts/materials/Pages/default.aspx)*: Reduce the Risk of SIDS and Other Sleep-Related Causes of Infant Death (American Indian/Alaska Native Outreach)*

**Resources**

A Program of the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome - [www.dontshake.org](http://www.dontshake.org)