



LifeSpan

Day Care You Can Trust For Children.

Policy Shaken Baby Syndrome SBS/Abusive Head Trauma- AHT

This policy is designed to prevent the possibility of abusive head trauma during care. Abusive head trauma (also referred to as Shaken Baby Syndrome) occurs in infants and young children, whose neck muscles are not well-developed and whose heads are larger relative to their bodies. As a result, they are especially susceptible to head trauma caused by any type of forceful or sudden shaking, with or without blunt impact. Damage can occur in as little as 5 seconds.

Procedure/Practice Signs and Symptoms may include the following:

- Seizures
- Bruises
- Lack of appetite, vomiting or difficulty swallowing/sucking
- Lack of smiling or vocalizing
- Rigidity, inability to lift head
- Difficulty staying awake, altered consciousness
- Inability of eyes to track or unequal pupil size
- Decreased muscle tone
- Difficulty breathing, blue color
- Irritability

Addressing the prevention and identification of maltreatment:

Responding to: • If Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) or head trauma is suspected, staff will

- Call 911, call the parent/guardian and inform director
- Report to the appropriate child protective service agency within 24 hours or less as required by law Reporting:
- Instances of suspected child maltreatment in PA child care facilities is reported to ChildLine at 1-800- 932-0313 or through the Child Welfare Portal at <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

- Child abuse includes but is not limited to intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly: causing bodily injury to a child through any recent act or failure to act; creating a reasonable likelihood of bodily injury to any child through any recent act or failure to act ; and forcefully shaking a child under one year of age.

Strategies for Caregivers: Children are often shaken out of frustration. Here are some strategies that may help but sometimes nothing will comfort a crying child. It is important to seek support from a co-worker and determine if the right supports are in place for the child and for the staff. Ensure the child does not have any physical needs (hungry, tired, sick or needing a diaper change), then attempt one or more of the following strategies:

DO

- Rock the child, hold them close, walk with them
- Gently rub or stroke their back, chest or tummy
- Offer a pacifier or rattle / toy
- Sing or talk in a soothing voice
- Walk in a stroller
- Use white noise machine
- Ask for help from colleague
- Take a break

NEVER

- Shake a child • Drop a child • Push them into any object
- Throw in the air or into a crib or car seat • Strike a child's head

Program Policy: In addition to the required health and safety trainings, all childcare staff will participate in a PQAS approved training on the prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome, abusive head trauma, and child maltreatment within 90 days of hire.

Resources for Caregivers Abusive Head Trauma:

How to Protect Your Baby <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Abusive-Head-Trauma-ShakenBaby-Syndrome.aspx>

National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome <https://www.dontshake.org/>

Adopted May 2022.