



Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma

Belief Statement

St. John's Lutheran preschool 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 childcare, and educating families.

Procedure/Practice

- **Recognizing:** Children are observed for signs of abusive head trauma including irritability and/or high-pitched crying, the head, seizures, lack of appetite, vomiting, bruises, poor feeding, no smiling or vocalization, inability of the eyes to track and/or decreased muscle tone. Bruises may be found on the upper arms, rib cage, or head resulting from gripping or from hitting the head.

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.

Reporting

- Instances of suspected child maltreatment in childcare are reported to Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) by calling 1-800-859-0829 or by emailing webmasterdcd@dhhs.nc.gov.
- Instances of suspected child maltreatment in the home are reported to the county Department of Social Services

Communication

Staff*

- 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
- The childcare facility shall keep the SBS/AHT staff acknowledgement form in the staff member's file.

Parents/Guardians

- 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.
- The childcare facility shall keep the SBS/AHT parent acknowledgement form in the child's file.

* For purposes of this policy, "staff" includes the operator and other administration staff who may be counted in ratio, additional caregivers, substitute providers, and uncompensated providers.

The North Carolina Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center www.healthychildcarenc.org
800.367.2229