

**Twin Spring Farm
1632 E. Butler Pike
Ambler, Pa 19002**

Shaken Baby Syndrome (Abusive Head Trauma) Policy

Name of Child_____ School Year_____

This policy is designed to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report instances of Shaken Baby Syndrome, or Abusive Head Trauma. Twin Spring Farm believes that a major function of our job as childcare providers is to keep children safe, protect their healthy development, provide quality childcare, and educate families.

We shall accomplish this by having policies such as this in place and practicing them daily. According to the Mayo Clinic, Shaken Baby Syndrome (Abusive Head Trauma, AHT) is a “serious brain injury resulting from forcefully shaking an infant or toddler. Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) is a form of child abuse that can result in permanent brain damage or death.”

[Reference: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/shaken-babysyndrome/symptoms-causes/syc-20366619>]

Recognizing the Signs and Symptoms of SBS/AHT:

- Irritability
- Seizures
- Bruises
- Lack of smiling or vocalizing
- Lack of appetite, vomiting, or difficulty sucking or swallowing
- Difficulty staying awake or altered consciousness
- Difficulty breathing and/or blue color due to lack of oxygen
- Inability to lift head or rigidity
- Inability to focus the eyes or track movement
- Unequal pupil size

Response and Reporting:

If SBS/AHT is suspected, Twin Spring Farm employees will:

- Immediately call 911 upon suspecting SBS/AHT and inform the Toddler Center Director or other Twin Spring Farm Administration
- Call the parents/guardians
- Administer CPR if the child has stopped breathing. Staff trained in pediatric CPR will begin the process until medical professionals arrive and take over.
- Reporting instances of suspected SBS/AHT or other maltreatment of a child will be reported to Childline within 24 hours or less as required by law, using the method below.

CHILDLINE HOTLINE: 1-800-932-0313

SBS/AHT Prevention Strategies to Assist Staff in Coping with a Fussing, Crying, or Distraught Child:

Staff will first determine if the child has any physical needs such as being hungry, tired, sick, or in need of a diaper change. If all physical needs have been met, staff will attempt one or more of the following strategies:

- Sing or talk to the child in a soothing voice
- Offer a pacifier or try to distract the child with a toy
- Turn on music
- Take the child for a ride in a stroller or buggy
- Gently rub or stroke the child's back, chest, or stomach
- Stand up, hold the child close, and repeatedly bend knees
- Rock or walk with the child

In addition, Twin Spring Farm will:

- Allow for staff who feel they may lose control to have a short, but relatively immediate break from children
- Provide support when parents/guardians are trying to calm a crying child
- Encourage parents to take calming breaks if needed
- Share information with parents concerning successful calming strategies for a particular child

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

The following are strategies to assist staff members to understand how to care for infants:

- **Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma**

This course focuses on reducing a baby's risk of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma both at home and in child care settings.

[Reference: The Pennsylvania Key; www.pakeys.org]

- How to Care for Infants and Toddlers in Groups, the National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families, www.zerotothree.org/resources/77-how-to-care-for-infants-and-toddlers-in-groups
- Including Relationship-Based Care Practices in Infant-Toddler Care: Implications for Practice and Policy, the Network of Infant/Toddler Researchers, pages 7-9, www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/nitr_inquire_may_2016_070616_b508compliant.pdf

Parent web resources

- The American Academy of Pediatrics: www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/at-home/Pages/Abusive-Head-Trauma-Shaken-Baby-Syndrome.aspx
- The National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome: <http://dontshake.org/family-resources> The Period of Purple Crying: <http://purplecrying.info/>

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Parent or Guardian acknowledgement form

I, the parent or guardian of _____ (child or children's name) acknowledge that I have read and received a copy of the facility's Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma Policy.

Date policy given/explained to parents/guardian

Date of child's enrollment

Print name of parent/guardian

Signature of parent/guardian

Date