



#### Shaken Baby Syndrome

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## What is Shaken Baby Syndrome?



Occurs when a young child's head is whiplashed back and forth during shaking. Bleeding behind the eyes and in and around the brain occurs and can cause serious injury.



### Who is Responsible?



 65-90% of perpetrators are males in their early 20s who are the baby's father or mother's boyfriend



## Why do People Shake Babies?

- Frustration over:
  - Constant crying
  - Toilet training
  - Feeding problems
  - Child's interruption of television or other activities of parent or caregiver



## Play Activities that can Injure an infant/child

- · Repeated, vigorous tossing into the air
- Jogging while carrying baby on back or shoulders
- "riding a horse" (child faces adult while sitting on swinging foot or bouncing on knee)
- "cracking the whip" (swinging child around by ankles)
- Spinning a child around



#### Common Injuries

- Brain damage
- Spinal injury/paralysis
- · Blindness or other eye trauma
- Seizures
- Delay in normal development
- Impaired motor and sensory skills
- Broken bones
- Dislocations
- Retardation



#### How to Prevent

- Provide support for baby's head when holding, playing or transporting
- Educate all who care for your baby about the dangers of Shaken Baby Syndrome
- Learn what to do if your baby won't stop crying



## What to do if your baby won't stop crying

- Put child in a safe place and leave the room for a few minutes
- Call a friend or neighbor
- · Take 10 deep breaths; then take 10 more
- Do something for yourself; play music, make some coffee, take a shower, read a magazine
- Sit down, close your eyes, think of a pleasant place
- Offer the baby a pacifier

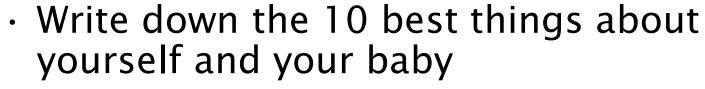


# "When your baby cries" video ordering information

Department of Pediatrics
Emergency Medical Services
PO Box 26901
Oklahoma City, OK 73190
(405) 271-3307
\$15.00 plus shipping



## What to do if your baby won't stop crying



- Change your activity; shake a rug, scrub a floor, clean a closet
- Feed the baby slowly; burp often
- · Check the diaper and change if needed
- Walk or rock the baby
- Take the baby for a ride in a stroller or car
- Sing to baby or play soft music