

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome and the Child Care Provider *Sample Drill: Emergency Procedures for an Unresponsive Infant*

Why Do Practice Drills?

Although SIDS does not occur often -- it happens in approximately 77 of every 100,000 live births per year in this country -- it is important for child care providers to be prepared in case of an emergency situation involving an unresponsive infant. Similar to practicing fire drills, the staff should be informed of, and prepared to carry out, these recommended steps should an infant be found unresponsive.

What Is Involved In A Drill?

Before conducting a drill, review the emergency procedures and familiarize staff with resources that are available to them. In addition to emergency numbers, post telephone numbers for local SIDS programs as well. During and after the drill, it is recommended that staff have time to verbalize their feelings regarding a potential infant emergency.

Emergency Procedures

1. Start CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) and continue until relieved by another adult certified in CPR.
2. Dial 911 or your local emergency number.
3. Calm the other children and remove them from the area.
4. Call the child's parents first, then call the parents of the other children.
5. Call your licensing agency.
6. As much as possible, leave the area where the baby was found undisturbed. Do not clean or tidy anything in the room until the investigators tell you that it is okay to do so.
7. Contact your local SIDS organization.

After The Emergency:

If The Infant Dies of SIDS . . .

1. Inform parents of other children in your care that an emergency occurred and offer them information about children and bereavement.
2. Debrief your staff and offer support and information on SIDS and bereavement as it affects child care providers.
3. Be prepared to give information to investigators, such as:
 - The last time and place that the infant was seen alive, and by whom.
 - The time, position, and condition of the infant when found, and by whom.
 - The infant's last feeding.
 - Any observations regarding the infant's behavior.

Investigative personnel may collect items belonging to or surrounding the baby (such as the last soiled diaper, the bedding or other crib materials last used by the baby, etc.) for analysis. Please cooperate with them in any way that you can.