



**Asbury Children's Center**  
**Asbury United Methodist Church**  
5400 West 75th Street  
Prairie Village, KS, 66208  
913-677-5008

## **SAFE SLEEP POLICY**

### **Safe Infant Sleep in Child Care**

Providing infants with a safe place to grow and learn is very important. For this reason, **Asbury Children's Center** has created a policy on safe sleep practices for infants up to 1-year-old. We follow the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide a safe sleep environment and reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). SIDS is "the sudden death of an infant under 1 year of age, which remains unexplained after a thorough investigation." The staff, substitute staff, and volunteers at **Asbury Children's Center** follow the recommendations of the AAP.

#### **Sleep Position:**

- Infants will be placed flat on their backs to sleep every time unless there is a physician, practitioner or clinician signed sleep position medical waiver up to date on file. In the case of a waiver, a waiver notice will be posted at the infant's crib without identifying medical information. The full waiver will be kept in the infant's file.
- Infants will not be placed on their side for sleep.
- Devices such as wedges or infant positioners will not be used since such devices are not proven to reduce the risk of SIDS.
- Infants who use pacifiers will be offered their pacifier when they are placed to sleep, and it will not be put back in should the pacifier fall out once they fall asleep.
- Pacifiers will be cleaned between each use, checked for tears, and will not be coated in any sweet or other solution.
- Parents are asked to provide replacement pacifiers on a regular basis.
- While infants will always be placed on their backs to sleep, when an infant can easily turn over from back to front and front to back, they can remain in whatever position they prefer to sleep.

#### **Sleep Environment:**

- Our program will use Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines for safety-approved cribs and firm mattresses.
- Due to state licensing rules, cradles and bassinets may not be used for sleeping.
- Infants will not be placed to sleep on any standard bed, waterbeds, couches, air mattresses or on other soft surfaces.

- Only one infant will be placed to sleep in each crib. Siblings, including twins and triplets, will be placed in separate cribs.
- The crib will have a firm tight fitting mattress covered by a fitted sheet and will be free from loose bedding, toys, and other soft objects (i.e., pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, stuffed toys, etc.)
- To avoid overheating, the temperature of the rooms where infants sleep will be checked and kept at a level that is comfortable for a lightly clothed adult.
- Blankets will not be used by children who are not yet able to roll over on their own. Sleep clothing, such as sleepers, sleep sacks, and wearable blankets, may be used as alternatives to blankets.
- When blankets are used, they will be tucked in on each side and one end of the crib. The baby's face will not be covered with a blanket.
- Bibs and pacifiers will not be tied around an infant's neck or clipped to an infant's clothing during sleep.
- Smoking will not be allowed in or near **Asbury Children's Center**.

#### **Supervision:**

- When infants are in their cribs, they will be within sight and hearing of staff at all times.
- A staff member will visibly check on the sleeping infants frequently to see that their chest is rising and falling.
- When an infant is awake, they will have supervised "tummy time." This will help babies strengthen their muscles and develop normally.
- Infants will spend limited time in car seats, swings, and bouncer/infant seats when they are awake.

#### **Training:**

- All staff, substitute staff and volunteers at **Asbury Children's Center** will be trained on safe sleep policies and practices.
- Safe sleep practices will be reviewed with all staff, substitute staff and volunteers each year. In addition, training specific to these policies will be given before any individual is allowed to care for infants.
- Documentation that staff, substitutes and volunteers have read and understand these policies will be kept in each individual's file.
- All staff and substitute staff at **Asbury Children's Center** will be trained on first aid for unresponsive infants, as well as what to do when they have a question or need assistance before they are allowed to care for infants.

**When The Policy Applies:**

This policy applies to all staff, substitute staff, parents and volunteers when they place an infant to sleep in **Asbury Children's Center**.

**Communication Plan for Staff and Parents:**

Parents will review this policy when they enroll their child in **Asbury Children's Center** and a copy will be provided with the Parent Handbook. Parents are asked to follow this same policy when the infant is at home. These policies will be posted in prominent places. Information regarding safe sleep practices, safe sleep environments, reducing the risk of SIDS in child care, as well as other program health and safety practices will be shared if any changes are made. A copy will also be provided in the Staff Handbook.

*Note: The information contained in this publication should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.*