

Asheville Montessori School Policy Concerning Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma

We, Asheville Montessori School North and Asheville Montessori School Julia Street, 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 child care, and educating families.

SBS/AHT is the name given to a form of physical child abuse that occurs when an infant or small child is violently shaken and/or there is trauma to the head. Shaking may last only a few seconds but can result in severe injury or even death. According to North Carolina Child Care Rule (child care centers, 10A NCAC 09 .0608, family child care homes, 10A NCAC 09 .1726), each child care facility licensed to care for children up to five years of age shall develop and adopt a policy to prevent SBS/AHT.

Recognizing:

- Children are observed for signs of abusive head trauma including irritability and/or high pitched crying, difficulty staying awake/lethargy or loss of consciousness, difficulty breathing, inability to lift the head, seizures, lack of appetite, vomiting, bruises, poor feeding/sucking, 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. o Call the parents/guardians.
- If the child has stopped breathing, trained staff will begin pediatric CPR4.

Reporting:

- Instances of suspected child maltreatment in child care 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.

Prevention strategies to assist staff in coping with a crying, fussing, or distraught child

Staff first determine if the child has any physical needs such as being hungry, tired, or sick. If no physical need is identified, staff will attempt one or more of the strategies outlined in the staff handbook or reviewed by the Director during staff training opportunities.

Behaviors that are prohibited will be included in the staff training. All staff take training on SBS/AHT within first two weeks of employment. Training includes recognizing, responding to, and reporting child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment as well as the brain development of children up to five years of age.

Parents and Staff may check with the Director or Assistant Director for a list of resources.

This policy applies to children up to five years of age and their families, operators, early educators, substitute providers, and uncompensated providers.

Communication with the Staff:

- Within 30 days of adopting this policy, the school shall review the policy with all staff who provide care for children up to five years of age.
- All current staff members and newly hired staff will be trained in SBS/AHT before providing care for children up to five years of age.
- Staff will sign an acknowledgement form that includes the individual's name, the date the school's policy was given and explained to the individual, the individual's signature, and the date the individual signed the acknowledgment
- The school shall keep the SBS/AHT staff acknowledgement form in the staff member's file.

Communication with Parents/Guardians

- Within 30 days of adopting this policy, the school shall review the policy with parents/guardians of currently enrolled children up to five years of age. Parents are invited to ask questions or express concerns.
- 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 school.
- Parents/guardians will sign an acknowledgement form that includes the child's name, date the child first attended the school, date the operator's policy was given and explained to the parent, parent's name, parent's signature, and the date the parent signed the acknowledgement
- The school shall keep the SBS/AHT parent acknowledgement form in the child's file.

Effective Date: February 28, 2017