

Program Coordination

Contact Information



**WOMEN & CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL OF BUFFALO**

A Kaleida Health Facility

Upstate Region
**Kaleida Health
Women and
Children's
Hospital of Buffalo**
(716) 878-7441



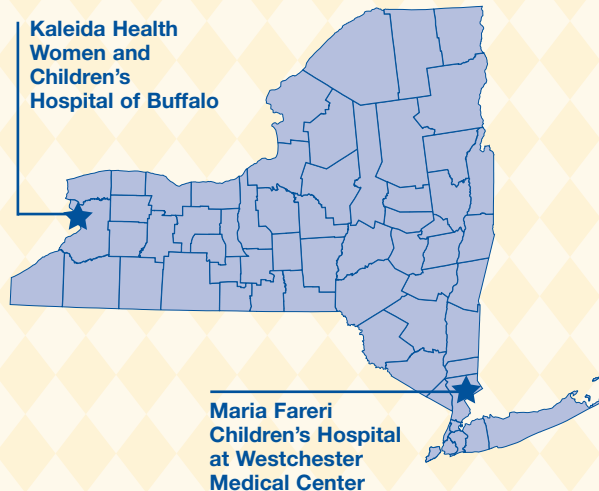
AT WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER

Downstate Region
**Maria Fareri
Children's Hospital at
Westchester Medical
Center**
(914) 493-7235

About The Program

The New York Shaken Baby Prevention Program is a state-wide effort to educate all parents about shaken baby syndrome and how to prevent it. Leadership for the program is by health professionals at two regional medical centers: Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo, A Kaleida Health Facility in upstate New York and Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center in downstate New York. All hospitals in New York State have the opportunity to participate in this important initiative.

Kaleida Health
Women and
Children's
Hospital of Buffalo



Maria Fareri
Children's Hospital
at Westchester
Medical Center



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**New York
Shaken
Baby
Prevention
Program**

PREVENTING
Shaken
Baby
S y n d r o m e

*A Guide for
Parents*

PREVENTING Shaken Baby S y n d r o m e

What is Shaken Baby Syndrome?

Shaken Baby Syndrome describes the serious injuries that can occur when an infant, toddler, or child is shaken. They have heavy heads and weak neck muscles, causing the delicate brain to move back and forth inside the skull. This can cause injury to the brain, spine, eyes, and bones.

What Happens When a Baby is Shaken?

Shaking can lead to serious injuries such as: cerebral palsy, blindness, damage to the spinal cord (paralysis), delayed development, seizures, fractures, learning disabilities and/or mental retardation. An infant, toddler or child who is shaken may die as a result of his or her injuries.

Why Does It Happen?

Shaken Baby Syndrome usually occurs when an adult loses control and shakes a baby. "Losing it" could happen to anyone, especially when the baby has been crying a lot. Shaken Baby Syndrome is entirely preventable!

Normal Crying

Crying is a normal, everyday activity in the lives of babies. Some infants cry very little while others cry a lot. Not every baby is easy to calm. Crying is the only way babies have to communicate their needs. They might cry when they are hungry, lonely, tired or when their diaper needs to be changed. While crying is a normal part of every baby's day, crying can also mean that your baby is sick or in pain. If you think this is the case, it is important to contact your pediatrician.

What To Do When Your Baby Cries

If you have checked for all of the reasons why a baby might cry and your baby is still crying, you can try some of these suggestions:

- Rub her back or stroke her head as you count slowly out loud.
- Let him listen to a repeating or soothing sound.
- Walk outdoors with her.
- Gently rock him in your arms or walk with him against your shoulder.
- Hum or sing to her.
- Try a pacifier, or help him find his thumb to suck on.
- Put her in a car seat and take a car ride.
- Carry him in a "snuggly".

If Crying Is Getting To You

Stop

Place the baby in a comfortable and safe place, such as a crib or play pen, and walk away. It is okay to let your baby cry while you calm down. Crying won't cause brain damage or harm your baby in any way.

Relax

Once your baby is in a safe place, walk outside for a couple of minutes or go into another room where the crying is not so loud. Sit down and take ten deep breaths. Listen to music, take a shower or exercise.

Take a break

If possible, call a trusted friend, neighbor, or family member to help you for a while so you can take a little break.

How To Prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome

Share this brochure with all people who help you care for your baby, including any family member, any babysitter, or any childcare center. Remind everyone to **never, never, never shake a baby!**

Identify a trusted friend, relative, or neighbor who can lend a hand when times get tough. Talk to this person, and let him or her know you may call for help.

Asking for help is a GOOD thing!

**Parent Helpline
1-800-342-7472**

*From anywhere in New York State,
24 hours a day, 7 days a week,
English & Spanish*