

Choose Your Partner and Caregiver Carefully

Few people believe that someone they love or trust could ever hurt their child. But, it happens.

In 2012, Indiana lost 34 of its children to abuse and neglect fatalities, in 2013 - 49 children, and in 2014 - 66 children.

A one year old child died of abusive head trauma after being violently shaken by his mother's boyfriend because he was crying. His mother had gone to a friend's home and left her children in the care of her boyfriend whom she knew had a history of domestic violence and violence toward children.

A three year old died from multiple injuries after being severely beaten by her mother's boyfriend, while in his care, over several days, with a belt and his hands. Her injuries were said to be too numerous to count.

A two year old child was dropped on the floor repeatedly by his step-mother causing skull fractures, brain swelling, internal bleeding and other injuries which led to his death. Further examination found additional bruising on other parts of the child's body indicating he had been abused on numerous occasions.

These are just a few of the stories of abuse-related child deaths occurring in Indiana resulting from children being left in the hands of an inadequate caregiver.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Get a background check on all roommates, partners, & care providers (e.g. family of partner). Also you can search Google, check social media, or check references for potential warning signs.
- Get to know your partner & pay attention to how they act with your child before leaving your child alone with them.
- Create a back-up plan with in case you suddenly need a caregiver.
- When you need to hire childcare, use a professional service who has screened potential caregivers.
- Ask your partner/caregiver what they did while you were gone.
- Teach your child(ren) that it is okay to talk to you about any problems or concerns they may have about your partner/caregiver.
- Teach your child(ren) the name of a trusted neighbor close to home who they can call or go to if they think they are in danger.

To Report Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect Please Call:

Emergency: 9-1-1 OR
Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline: 1-800-800-5556

INDIANA RESOURCES

FIND LOCAL CHILDCARE :

www.ecalliance.org / 260-745-2501

CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE

www.centerfornv.org/260-456-4112
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233

DIRECTORY FOR COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

Indiana 2-1-1

FREE PHONE APP:

Alert ID - Provides local crime and hazard updates

Information provided by:
UNLV Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy
Home of Prevent Child Abuse Nevada
www.preventchildabusenevada.org
preventchildabusenevada@unlv.edu
Phone: 702-895-5053



IS YOUR CHILD AT RISK?

TAKE THE SAFETY TEST



CHOOSE YOUR PARTNER AND CAREGIVER CAREFULLY

YOUR CHILD'S LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.



Just because someone is an intimate partner, relative, or close friend does not mean they are able to safely care for your child.

Most parents never think that someone who cares about them, especially a family member, partner or friend could ever hurt their child.

Take the Safety Test:

Does your partner...

1. Enjoy spending time with you and your child?
2. Say nice things about both you and your child?
3. Talk to you and your child in a respectful way?
4. Give your child positive attention?
5. Listen to and respect you and your child's feelings?
6. Understand that children do different things at different ages?
7. Use positive discipline, like time-outs?
8. Take interest in your child's school work and activities?
9. Make you and your child feel special?
10. Make you and your child laugh and feel happy?
11. Make you and your child feel safe and secure?
12. Treat other women/men in his/her life with love and respect?

If you answered "YES" to these questions, the person is likely to be responsible and a great support to you and your child.

If you answered "NO" to even one of these questions, your child *could be* at risk.

Choosing the right person to care for your child is one of the most important decisions you can make.

You should know...

On average, over 4 children a day are fatal victims of maltreatment. The majority are children under the age of 3 and 31% of abuse fatalities are committed by a parent's intimate partner or another relative.

WARNING SIGNS:

Know how to identify a potential abuser **BEFORE** introducing him or her to your child:

- *Initially charming*
- *Isolates you*
- *Controlling*
- *Extremely critical of you*
- *Jealous*
- *Unpredictable moods*
- *Cruel to animals*
- *Insists they are the victim*

It's not always easy to detect an abuser as some signs may not emerge right away.

Therefore, keep looking for warning signs **AFTER** introducing him or her to your child:

- *Angry or impatient when children have tantrums, cry, or misbehave.*
- *Violent with you.*
- *Abusing alcohol/drugs including marijuana.*
- *Using prescription medications that have negative side effects or make the person drowsy.*



WHEN CHOOSING SOMEONE TO CARE FOR YOUR CHILD, THEY SHOULD:

- Have **experience** caring for babies and young children.
- Be **patient and mature** enough to care for an excited or crying baby.
- Understand that young children must **always** be watched.
- **Never** shake, hit, yell at, make fun of, or withhold food from a child as punishment.
- **NOT abuse alcohol or drugs or illegally carry a weapon** or surround a child with others who may be drinking, using drugs, or carrying weapons illegally.

A partner or caregiver should know what to do when your child won't stop crying, such as...



- Check to see if he or she is **hungry, wet, cold, hot, etc.**
- **Walk around** holding the baby close in his or her arms or in a carrier; try talking, or singing to the baby.
- **Call a trusted friend, relative, or neighbor** who is able to come over and talk to him or her.
- If all else fails, put the baby in the crib on his or her back, making sure the child is safe—check in every five minutes or so... **it is much better to let the baby cry than to do something to stop the crying that may be harmful.**
- **Never shake the baby**—shaking a baby can cause bleeding in the brain, which can injure or kill a child. It takes only a few seconds of shaking to seriously hurt a baby's brain.