

Contact details of professional who gave you this leaflet:

Please ask your health visitor or GP or other children's professional if you would like to know more.



Thanks to the groups at Henbury & Brentry Children's Centre (Breast feeding group & Baby clinic), Breast feeding clinic at Kingswood Hub and Badock's Wood Children Centre who worked with Barnardo's HYPE service to share their ideas and feedback on this leaflet. Thanks to health and social care professionals for leading the development of this leaflet supported by Barnardo's. Approved March 2016



Support Organisations

For help with parenting or if your baby won't stop crying:

Cry-sis.org.uk - Helpline: 08451 228 669

Other Support Services

- NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk
- Family Lives – 24hr helpline: 0808 800 2222
- National Childbirth Trust: www.nct.org.uk
- NCT Helpline 0300 330 0700

If you need additional support or are concerned about the safety of a child:

- First Response (Bristol): 0117 903 6444
- ART (South Glos): 01454 866000
- Social Care (North Somerset) 01275 888 808/266
- Social Care Out of hours: Emergency Duty Team 01454 615165

To help resolve concerns or to help make a complaint (or compliment) about the service you have received from health professionals, please contact:

PALS (Patient Access and Liaison Service) - 0117 947 4477 or 0800 073 0907 or ask for the complaints policy or customer services department for the organisation

Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset Safeguarding Boards



Keeping Babies Safe

You may find information in this leaflet upsetting but it is here to help you understand what is happening.



Babies can't tell us how something happened and even a small bruise, mark or injury could be a sign of something more serious.

Every baby who is not yet crawling or pulling to stand (this is called "non-mobile") with a bruise or other mark will routinely be checked by a specialist children's health professional.

The health professional will look for

- Birth mark or skin condition
- Medical reason such as a blood disorder
- Accident which explains the injury
- Injury which could be due to abuse or neglect
- Other, for example nose bleeds or other bleeding

Almost all babies are loved and well looked after. We are aware that accidents do happen and all injuries need to be investigated. Sometimes a carer may be unable to cope and this may result in a tiny baby being injured. Non-mobile babies are much more at risk of serious non-accidental injury (abuse) than any other age group.

Because of this, non-mobile babies with injuries will also be discussed with professionals whose job it is to safeguard children and look after their best interests.

What happens next?

To make sure all babies are safe, professionals have to follow rules which include sharing relevant information between health professionals, social care and child protection police. This is normal practice for every tiny baby with an injury, even if it seems totally accidental.

If you have not brought your baby straight to hospital your midwife, health visitor, GP, or other child care professional will arrange for your baby to be examined by a specialist health professional, usually at the hospital.

The Emergency Department and hospital doctors have to see very sick children first so you may have to wait.

A doctor or nurse will take a history and examine your baby and discuss this with the specialist children's doctor and other professionals.

Your baby may also need:

- *Photographs* – to record the mark and help the doctor to check how the injury heals.
- *Blood Tests*

Your baby may need to stay in hospital for other tests like x-rays and scans which may take a few days to complete. The doctors and nurses will explain what is happening and support you if your baby needs these tests.

Please bring what you and your baby would need (e.g. milk and some nappies) in case you have to stay in hospital.

Before your baby leaves hospital, everyone has to be clear about the likely cause of the mark or injury.

We also need to make sure that you have the support you need to help keep your baby safe.



Next Steps

You will be given advice and treatment if there are any health issues for your baby. Your health visitor and GP will be informed so they can support you.

In the rare case where there is a significant concern about your baby, a social worker and other agencies will work together with you to keep your baby safe.