

Suggestions From SIDS Families to ER Staff: What Makes a Difference in ER Care.

- Use the baby's name.
- Clean the baby up as much as possible before a visit from the family.
- Touch the baby first, as a model for the family.
- Provide a separate area or room for the family to wait during resuscitation and again for the time alone with the baby.
- Give a lock of the baby's hair to the family.
- Take a picture of the baby.
- Take a hand print and/or footprint.
- Wrap the baby like a baby.
- Don't pull the covers over the baby's face.
- Make sure the family has access to staff during resuscitation.
- Grant any of the family's requests that you can allow.
- Suggest options that they may not know they have.
- Repeat things often, clearly and slowly.
- Explain the necessity of an autopsy.
- Give referrals to parent groups for any infant death right away.
- Save the baby's clothes, no matter how they look.
- Review what the physician said.
- Let them know about the whole process (PHN, Coroner, Police).
- Offer to stay with the baby until the coroner or mortician arrives.
- Walk the family out to their car when they leave.
- Pay the parking fee.
- Get the names, addresses and phone numbers of family and friends.
- Consider calling for follow-up in a week or so.
- It's OK to attend a funeral, as you and the family decide.
- Send a sympathy card.



Produced by the California SIDS Program under funding
by the California Department of Health Services,
Maternal and Child Health Branch

California SIDS Program
3164 Gold Camp Drive, Suite 220
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6052
916-266-SIDS (7437) • 800-369-SIDS (7437) • FAX 916-266-7439
info@californiasids.com • www.californiasids.com