

## SHAKEN BABY INJURIES



**Babies that cry for prolonged periods are the most susceptible to shaken baby incidents.**

**Shaking a baby often causes devastating injuries, including:**

- Hemorrhaging between the brain and skull and brain swelling.
- Skull fractures, damaged brain tissue, retinal bleeding, and broken ribs caused by squeezing the baby's chest.
- Death in 25 percent to 30 percent of the victims.
- Disabilities such as cerebral palsy, blindness, developmental disorders or impaired motor skills in 60 percent to 70 percent of the survivors.

**Here are suggestions for parents when their baby cries.**

- Check the baby's diapers.
- Try to find out if the baby is hungry or uncomfortable.
- Make sure the baby doesn't have a fever.
- Swaddle the baby in a soft blanket and cuddle the child.
- Try giving the child a ride in a stroller or car.
- Put the baby in a bouncy chair or gentle infant swing.
- Give the child a soothing bath.
- If you become angry, place the baby in the crib and leave the room. Take a 10-minute break to calm down.
- For help, call the 24-hour Parent Support Network at 888-281-3000.

Source: The Child Abuse Prevention Council of Stanislaus County