

Jennie Edmundson Hospital Family Resource Center Increases Awareness of Shaken Baby Syndrome

Shaken Baby Syndrome is caused by the violent shaking of a baby or young child, causing the head to flop back and forth. This whiplash motion can cause the brain to slam against the inside of the skull and tear blood vessels and brain swelling and internal bleeding from injury causes the brain tissue to tear. Nerve pathways in the brain that are important for learning and normal development are being completed during this stage of a baby's life. SBS can cause severe damage to these pathways that will never be repaired.

Jean Armstrong, RN of the Family Resource Center was instrumental in the development of the Shaken Baby Task Force in 1997, resulting from a high incidence of child abuse in the Council Bluffs area, particularly three deaths attributed to Shaken Baby Syndrome.

Jean Armstrong, RN is the Coordinator of the Shaken Baby Task Force and has received many awards for her dedication and service to the community in the prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome.

- 2005 Alumni Achievement Award, College of St. Mary Omaha, Nebraska
- 2006 Kierra Harrison Foundation Las Vegas, Nevada
- 2007 Iowa Hospital Heroes Award, Iowa Hospital Association
- 2008 National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution
- 2009 Safety Award, B'nai B'rith Service Organization Henry Monsky Lodge, Omaha, Nebraska

Since 1997 the numbers of shaken baby syndrome deaths have decreased in Iowa due to the efforts of the Shaken Baby Task Force by providing education on the prevention of shaken baby syndrome and ways to calm a crying baby.

For more information, call Jean Armstrong, RN, at the Jennie Edmundson Hospital Family Resource Center (712) 396-4200 or e-mail jean.armstrong@nmhs.org or visit www.safebaby.org.