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DSS SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT of SOCIAL SERVICES



A B C Quality


- Regulatory agency for all child care settings
 - Center-based
 - Faith-based
 - Group home child care
 - Family home child care
- Basic health and safety
- Voluntary quality rating and improvement system
 - Assesses and rates child care programs (A, B, or C)
 - Provides access to federal subsidy funding
- Enhancing quality



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Child care context

- No current law or regulation requires safe sleep training in licensed or registered child care programs
 - Programs participating in ABC Quality *are* required to be safe sleep-trained
- Existing child care regulations do not spell out safe sleep practices
- Existing law only requires one person onsite to be CPR/First Aid-certified (usually 2-4 individuals are certified)
 - Programs participating in ABC Quality require *all* staff to be CPR/FA-certified
- Nearly all currently available safe sleep campaigns and information focus on families and homes, not child care settings



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Sleep Safe SC

- Voluntary designation for child care providers – pilot phase through the end of 2023
- Designation rolling out to the public in 2024
- Free training, onsite coaching, and support materials
- Developing a cross-sector designation for organizations outside of the child care field



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Five Commitments of Child Care Designation



Commitment 1: Attend the Sleep Safe SC training provided by SCPITC. All program staff who may care for infants must attend the training.

Commitment 2: Create a Safe Sleep policy that states the importance of using Safe Sleep practices, lists the ABCs of Safe Sleep, lists items that are prohibited in cribs, and includes a commitment to use the ABCs of Safe Sleep for every baby and every sleep. Share this commitment with all staff (include in staff handbook, in new staff orientation, etc.).

Commitment 3: Inform families about the importance of Safe Sleep with all enrolled and prospective families through various modes of communication (e.g., share information when parents first tour the program, include information in newsletter, display Sleep Safe SC posters in the infant rooms, provide prospective parents with Safe Sleep information, etc.). The Safe Sleep Policy must be included in the Family Handbook or other enrollment packet.

Commitment 4: Remove all restrictive equipment in which babies might sleep from the infant rooms (swings, bouncy seats, etc.).

Commitment 5: Continue learning and sharing updates with staff and families on new research and best practices for Safe Sleep. Share your plan for annual safe sleep training for all staff and how you will stay up to date on Safe Sleep best practices, including resources you will use.

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How to support families

- The “easy button” – look for programs that participate in ABC Quality
 - All classroom staff required to be certified in First Aid/CPR
 - All staff required to take a pre-service health & safety course that includes safe sleep, preventing abusive head trauma, and other topics
- For all other programs
 - Take a tour of the program (see how babies are being laid down/sleeping in cribs)
 - Ask the director if the teachers have been trained in using safe sleep practices in the past year
 - Ask how many staff are certified in CPR/First Aid
 - Look up licensing violations on www.schildcare.org

The logo for scpitc.org is displayed on a dark green, textured brushstroke background. The text "scpitc.org" is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font.