

CARING CONNECTIONS

Five Month Visit Guideline For On-Going Home Visitors

1. Review of current family information. Include any changes in address, phone number or family structure.
2. Present child with 5-Month incentive gift (texture toy) compliments of the Caring Connections program. Thank them for continuing on with the program and accepting the 5-Month visit!!
3. Discuss current medical information as outlined on the form.
 - a. Discuss immunizations and well-baby check-ups:
 - Has child received: 2- month shots/check-up?
 - 4-month shots/check-up?
 - Has family scheduled 6-month shots/check-up?
 - Discuss option for receiving shots at OTC Public Health Clinics, at a reduced cost.
 - b. Make appropriate referrals for questions/concerns raised by family concerning child's health.
4. Discuss current parent/childcare information.
 - How is daily routine going for family?
 - Concerns about current child care arrangements? Refer to Childcare Resource & Referral, if necessary.
 - How are the older siblings interacting with infant?
 - What is parent(s) favorite activity with infant? Biggest parenting struggle?
5. Discuss current child development:
 - Refer to texture toy.
 - Introduce "Activities for Infants" (peek-a-boo, patty cake, simple homemade toys).
 - Is child grasping objects using one or both hands/passing objects back and forth between hands?
 - Rolling from side to side or front to back?
 - Beginning to sit with support?
 - Following colorful objects?
 - Encourage use of chewing/teething toys.
 - How often and much is the baby eating? Discuss difficulties with breast/bottle feeding. Provide information on benefits of continued breast-feeding for infants, if appropriate.
 - Do you have any concerns about your baby's hearing? Discuss language development of infant – laughing, babbling, repeating sounds.
 - Concerns about sleep patterns for baby?
6. Discuss and review home safety information
 - Talk about not leaving babies alone on sofas, counters, diaper changing tables, adult beds, etc.
 - Do not prop bottles or leave baby alone while eating/sitting in a high chair.
 - Keep plastic bags, balloons and small objects away from baby.
 - Encourage parents to look at home from the level of the child – crawl on hands and knees from room to room to see at their level.
 - Be sure all outlets are properly covered and electrical (lamp, TV, etc) cords are out of reach of baby.
 - Discuss poison prevention handouts/safety tips.

7. Discuss importance of reading to infant frequently, during feedings, before or after nap times, etc. Provide family with local library list and information on story hour programs and Book Mobile locations.
8. Discuss local resources for families, including:
 - Parks/recreation areas in community for the family (believe it or not, some families may not be aware that there is a park just around the corner, down the street, etc.!);
 - Discuss parenting classes for infants/families through local ECFE programs and encourage families to contact the local centers for specific infant and sibling classes available.
 - Discuss local Head Start centers for families with older children who may qualify. Give the family an application for Head Start, if requested, and encourage families to apply EARLY!
9. Discuss importance of parent/family health:
 - What are Mom & Dad doing to take care of themselves?
 - Are there any concerns for Mom or Dad on feelings of well-being?
 - Are Mom & Dad getting enough rest?
10. Provide additional referral information dependent upon specific family needs. Make sure parent has opportunity to raise other questions/concerns.
11. Thank family for participating in Caring Connections and encourage them to share information about our program with neighbors, family & friends! Encourage them to contact and make a connection with local community resources, as previously discussed.
12. Remind them that next visit will occur at 12 months and you will be calling to schedule that visit in the future.