

Babies and Young Children Need a Hand When they Move

Interview Guide

***** These questions are intended as a guide for emergency response workers and reunification workers during a CPS investigation to determine the needs of infants/toddlers at risk of out-of-home placement***

*****This information should be shared with every new caregiver upon placement to help minimize the trauma associated with out-of-home placement***

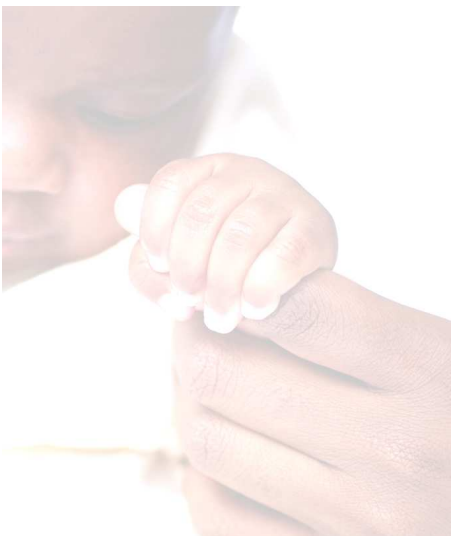
***** Children form new relationships best when they feel safe and understood. Routines and caregiver responsivity are their safety net.***

Infants

- **Medical**
 - Does baby have any medical conditions or allergies? Does baby take any medications, vitamins, or other supplements or use any medical devices/supplies? If so, try to have parent give you what they have (or empty bottles with info), and list as much info as possible about anything they don't have (name dosage, type, color, etc.)
 - Have a medication box to store medication in during transport and to give to new placement providers
 - What hospital and city was baby born at? Where do you take child for medical care?
 - Is mom taking any medication (street or prescribed)?
- **Feeding**
 - What does baby drink? Formula, breast-milk or whole milk? Infant should be fed the same as what they are getting at home
 - What formula is used? Any special kind? How is formula mixed?
 - Try to make a plan for visitation to accommodate nursing mothers

- Ask about any food or formula allergies or sensitivities
- How does baby show you he's hungry? Any words/signs?
- What is a typical schedule for feeding infant?
 - When did the baby last eat prior to removal?
 - How does baby cue when she is hungry?
 - Cry, root, fidget?
 - How does baby like to be held when drinking?
 - Upright, cradled, can she hold own bottle?
- What type of bottle/nipple does infant use/prefer?
 - Infant should have same bottle/nipple for feeding at new home
- If infant is eating baby food – what is the solid food eating routine?
 - What are baby's favorite foods?
 - Ask about allergies/sensitivities to solid food. Does baby have any allergy medication or device like an epi-pen?
 - Where does baby eat solid food? In a high-chair, bouncy chair, or booster seat?
- **Sleep**
 - What is baby's typical sleep schedule?
 - When did baby last nap (If placement occurs during the day)?
 - How long and time of typical nap during day?
 - What is baby's bedtime?
 - Does baby sleep through the night? How long do they sleep at night before needing to be fed?
 - How does baby usually get to sleep?
 - Does parent assist child to sleep or is baby left alone?
 - If a routine is used does it include: Pacifier, music, bottle, rocking, swaying, swing, other?
 - Does baby need any conditions or special things in order to sleep (like night light, dark room, swaddling, special blanket)?
 - Where does baby sleep?
 - Crib, bassinet, Pak-n-Play, with parent?
 - Does the baby, if over six months of age, prefer to sleep on their belly?
 - Does baby sleep alone or with parents/siblings?
- **Toileting**
 - Is baby potty trained?

- Does baby have any allergies/sensitivities to products (cream, powder, wipes, gloves, etc.)?
 - Ask about typical voiding patterns for the infant to determine if any changes occur after removal
 - Does the baby have any difficulties with eliminating?
- **Language/Comfort**
- What do you call baby at home?
 - What language do you use with your child?
 - Does baby use a pacifier?
 - When and why does the baby usually cry?
 - How does the baby prefer to be held?
 - What does infant need/like when needing calming down?
 - Rocking, swaddling, pacifier, swinging, music?
 - Some infants are adverse to certain types of stimuli like swinging, music, lights, etc. so be sure to ask parent what infant likes/dislikes are
 - Be sure to get favorite pacifier, toy, stuffed animal, blanket or rattle to come to new home
 - Try to have the parent lend a shirt or pillow case for infant so parents' smell is present for infant in new home
- **Fears**
- What is baby scared of?
 - Any calming routines?
- **Suggested items for Caseworker's Vehicle**
- If using county vehicle, have a bag to carry including the following:
 - Soothing music cd's such as instrumental music, nature sounds CD's (assists in calming infants down)
 - Blankets, baby wipes
 - Mirror for baby to see you while driving
 - Portable shades for window to block sun
 - Relaxation items for caseworker
 - Lavender oil, music, stress balls



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Toddlers

- **Medical**
 - Does child have any medical conditions or allergies? Does child take any medications, vitamins, or other supplements or use any medical devices/supplies? If so, try to have parent give you what they have (or empty bottles with info), and list as much info as possible about anything they don't have (name dosage, type, color, etc.)
 - Have a medication box to store medication in during transport and to give to new placement providers
 - What hospital and city was child born at? Where do you take child for medical care?
 - Is mom taking any medication (street or prescribed)?

- **Feeding/Eating schedule**
 - Is mom breastfeeding?
 - What does child drink?
 - Some children are on high-calorie formula if had difficulty with gaining weight; be sure to get ask parent about this
 - Whole Milk – any lactose intolerance or milk allergy?
 - Child should be fed the same as what they are getting at home

 - What is a typical day for feeding child?
 - When and what did child last eat?
 - How does child cue when she is hungry? Can she tell you with words? Does her behavior change or deteriorate when hungry?

 - What type of cup does child use/prefer?
 - Some toddlers still drink from bottle; would recommend continuing this until attachment with new caregiver is established

 - Solid food
 - What are child's favorite foods? What are her dislikes?
 - What is the child's appetite? Is she a picky eater by nature or does she have a strong appetite?
 - Ask about allergies/sensitivities to solid food

- Ask if child is on any special formula or medications regarding food
 - Acid reflux medication
 - Allergies? Epi-pen?
 - Prescription formula for failure to thrive toddlers
 - Lactose free milk
- **Sleep**
 - What is toddler's sleep schedule?
 - Do they take naps and if so for how long and at what time?
 - When did they last sleep?
 - How do they get to sleep for nap? Do they use comfort object or need assistance in getting to sleep for nap?
 - How does toddler usually get to sleep at night?
 - Music, bottle, rocking, swaying, pacifier
 - What is child's bedtime?
 - Does child sleep through night?
 - What conditions or special things does child need to sleep (night light, blanket, dark room, etc.)?
 - Any rituals for putting child to sleep?
 - Where does toddler sleep?
 - Crib, toddler bed, with parent/siblings?
 - Can the toddler climb out of the crib? What safety precautions for mobile toddlers were used for sleep?
- **Toileting**
 - Where is child at with potty training?
 - Does child have any allergies/sensitivities to products (cream, powder, wipes, gloves, etc.)?
 - What are child's words for needing to go potty?
 - Does child have a potty routine (how long do they need to sit, help wiping, potty chair or big toilet,)?
 - Ask about typical bowel patterns in toddler to determine if there is any change when placed
- **Language/Comfort**
 - What do you call child in the home?
 - What language do you use with your child?
 - Does child use pacifier?
 - When does toddler typically cry and for what reasons?
 - What does toddler need when needing calming down?
 - Some toddlers may still use pacifier – would recommend continuing pacifier use until placement is established - it will help with self-regulation and comfort needs
 - Rocking, pacifier, swinging, music?

- What words does toddler use for hunger, mommy/daddy, hurt, tired, etc. and how are they pronounced?
 - What is child's favorite song? Favorite story/book?
 - Be sure to get favorite pacifier, toy, stuffed animal, blanket to come to new home
 - Try to get a picture of parent for toddler to bring to new home
- **Fears**
 - What is child scared of?
 - Any routines to calm child?
- Suggested items for Caseworker's Vehicle
 - If using county vehicle, have a bag to carry including the following:
 - Soothing music cd's such as instrumental music, nature sounds CD's, toddler sing along songs
 - Blankets, baby wipes
 - Finger-foods (i.e. Goldfish crackers)
 - Stuffed animals, puppets, squishy stress balls
 - Portable shades for window to block sun
 - Relaxation items for caseworker
 - Lavender oil, music, stress balls



Davidson, B. and Ribaldo, J.
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