

Collaborative Cribettes

Safe Kids



Northeast Georgia Health System

Purpose

- Describe the effectiveness of partnerships between Safe Kids, the Northeast Georgia Health System Mother/Baby Unit, hospital social workers, and the local WIC program to reach all newborns in need of a safe sleep environment.
- Review key safe sleep educational opportunities when interacting with parents and caregivers during the hand-off of the Cribette.
- Highlight the annual fundraiser that provides funding for the Cribettes purchased from Cribs for Kids.

Partnership Effectiveness

The goal is to equip other educators and advocates of safe sleep with the ability to successfully reach all infants who are at risk of sleep related injuries or fatalities. The Safe Kids Northeast Georgia coalition, led by Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS), continuously partners with NGHS and other local partners to reach parents and caregivers who are unable to provide a safe sleep environment for their newborn.

Safe Kids Northeast Georgia has a continuous partnership with the NGHS social workers to address sleep environment concerns for patients who have delivered at NGHS. Through this partnership, these concerns are addressed by providing a free Cribette to the family in need.

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program at the Hall County Health Department regularly promotes the educational opportunities and equipment distributions that Safe Kids Northeast Georgia has to offer. Safe Sleep classes are offered at the Hall County Health Department during the month of October which is nationally recognized as Safe Sleep and SIDS Awareness Month. This partnership strives to educate parents and caregivers on the risks of sleep-related infant deaths or injuries. Once the parent or caregiver has attended the full course, they are offered a free Cribette provided by Safe Kids Northeast Georgia to encourage a safe sleeping environment for the baby.

Professionals and clinical personnel work tirelessly as a team to ensure the safety of these newborns, and because of these efforts, families of newborns with limited resources are provided with a Cribette to ensure safety.

Educational Opportunities

Each Cribette distribution is done in conjunction with safe sleep education by the Safe Kids coordinator and hospital social workers. Once a sleeping environment concern is voiced by the parent or caregiver, Safe Kids Northeast Georgia and NGHS social workers partner together to provide a Cribette for the family in need. Along with the Cribette, an educational folder that includes safe sleep infographics, an "Alone, on their Back, and in their Crib" (known as the ABCs of safe sleep) panel card, and other injury prevention information that is pertinent.

Upon discharge, each patient leaves the hospital with printed discharge instructions and a booklet called "Your Guide to Postpartum and Newborn Care" that includes instructions for safe sleep, which is provided by the NGHS Mother/Baby Unit. Instructions in the booklet include to always lay the baby on their back to sleep, with further explanation that shows this reduces the baby's risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The booklet also has other helpful tips such as keeping the room at a comfortable temperature that is not too hot or too cold, using a crib or bassinet with firm sides free of any loose covers, and removing all objects surrounding the baby (such as toys) while he or she is sleeping.

A communication board also provides the ABCs of Safe Sleep in all patient rooms as a visual reminder and to reiterate education given to them throughout their hospital stay. In addition to this, Safe Sleep information is also included on the closed-circuit TVs that are in each patient room. The education includes information on SIDS and Newborn Health & Safety videos.

Safe Sleep Materials

How to keep your baby safe when he or she sleeps:

- Always lay your baby on his or her back to sleep. This position can help reduce your baby's risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).
- Keep the room at a temperature that is comfortable for an adult. Do not let the room get too hot or cold.
- Use a crib or bassinet that has firm sides. Do not let your baby sleep on a soft surface such as a waterbed or couch where he or she could suffocate if his or her face gets caught in a soft surface, like a pillow, blanket, or stuffed animal. Cover the mattress with a fitted sheet that is made especially for the type of mattress you are using.
- Remove all objects, such as toys, pillows, or blankets, from your baby's bed while he or she sleeps. Ask for more information on childproofing.

Fundraiser Highlight

Each educational safe sleep class and Cribette distribution would not be possible without the annual Marketplace Holiday Shopping Event that benefits the Safe Kids Northeast Georgia coalition.

The annual Marketplace Holiday Shopping Event provides funding for the safe sleep program and other safety programs that Safe Kids leads. This fundraiser gives Safe Kids, along with partnering local agencies, the ability to provide a Cribette to any family in need that is identified by hospital social workers and staff.

The event includes opportunities for local businesses to register as a merchant, to become a sponsor, or donate to the auction. Merchants are welcome to set up booths at the event to sell and promote their products, while a portion of all sales go to Safe Kids Northeast Georgia. The event also welcomes local businesses with flexibility to sponsor on different levels such as Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, or Patron, which makes it possible to secure a venue and cover other operating costs of the event. Local businesses can also be involved by offering their services or products in the silent auction offered during the weekend event to promote community involvement and interest.

Others may have the potential to replicate this success in other communities by following similar processes established by Safe Kids Northeast Georgia.

In this initiative, identifying a vulnerable population, securing a funding source for resources, and developing a standard approach for education and distribution of resources are three key steps others can utilize to replicate a similar project in their local hospital setting.

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