

# Community

# Your DHS

Family Matters

## Resources

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Project 517-355-8885 or your local Department of Community Health

Household safety items:  
DHS Volunteer Services

Safe Sleep Information:  
Tomorrow's Child 1-800-331-SIDS

Cribs and Sleepers:  
DHS Volunteer Coordinator

Shaken Baby information:  
Children's Trust Fund

Breastfeeding Initiative: 517-335-8979

Alcohol or Substance Abuse information:  
Regional Substance Abuse Coordinating Agencies  
Treatment Information Line:  
1-888-736-0253

Family Support Resources:  
MSU Extension Office: 517-335-0265

SAFETY

CLOTHING

FOOD

SHELTER

Do you need a crib?

For more information on:

Children's Protective Services

Department of Human Services Specialist

Quantity: 70,000  
Cost: \$2,546.67 (.03 ea.)  
Authority: DHS Director

The Department of Human Services (DHS) will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to a DHS office in your area.

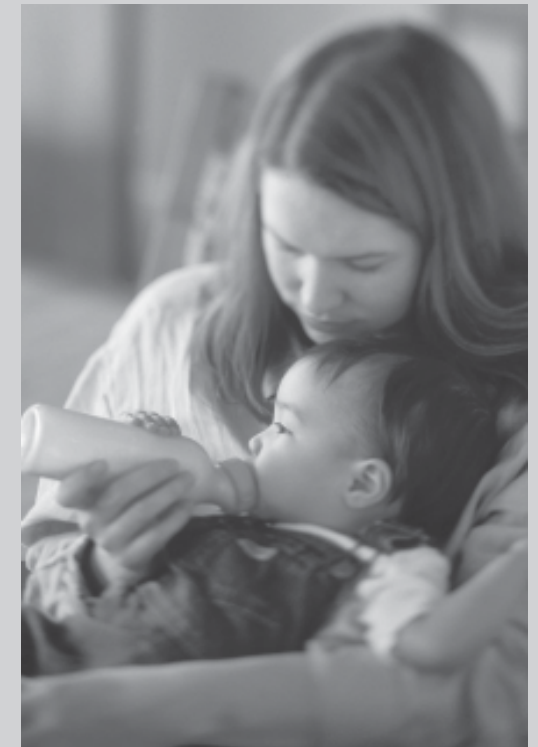
DHS-Pub-881 (8-05)



Helping Families to help themselves.

## Family Matters

## Keeping Children Safe



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

# Safety

## Home Safety

- Working smoke detectors
- Keep dangerous chemicals, matches and lighters out of reach
- Safe Sleeping area for children
- Smoke free play area
- Lock up all guns

## Parenting

- Focus on child's needs
- Give positive directions
- Give lots of praise
- Give lots of hugs
- Take a break
- Take care of yourself

## Family Independence Specialist

Family Independence Specialists (FIS) know that you want what is best for your family and have access to experts in many areas of family support. FIS help families with things like:

- Cash assistance, food assistance, and medical assistance
- Child development and care assistance
- Emergency needs
- Housing and homemaking
- Money management
- Improving family nutrition
- Connection to support groups

# Solutions

## Who can help you?

### Family Supports

- Parents
- Children
- Extended Family
- Neighbors
- Friends
- Teachers
- Siblings
- Clergy
- Tribal Elders
- Anyone else the family considers important to them and their children

## How can DHS help you?

- Community Resources
- Home Safety
- Child Care
- Best Practices for Parenting

Michigan Department of Human Services

# Protection

## Children's Protective Services

There is a team of people at the Department of Human Services who investigate child abuse and neglect based on Michigan Laws. They are trained to use the law and agency policy to recognize when a child is at risk of being harmed. The possible types of harm to a child include:

### **Neglect**

### **Physical Abuse**

### **Sexual Abuse**

When the community calls the Department of Human Services with a complaint of child abuse and/or neglect, a Children's Protective Services (CPS) worker may be assigned to investigate. Approximately 70,000 complaints are investigated each year in Michigan by CPS caseworkers. If the allegations of harm are true the CPS worker, with the family, will decide how to best keep the children from further harm in the most family like setting. Whenever possible, the CPS worker and the family will explore supports the family may have and the community can offer. If CPS and the family cannot come to an agreement or the situation is unsafe the CPS worker will seek relative care for the children. In the most difficult situations children have to be removed from their homes by the courts.

## Checklist

### **Is my home as safe as it can be for my children?**

- Are there working smoke detectors in the home?
- Are dangerous household chemicals out of children's reach? (Up high or in cabinets with childproof locks)
- Are lead painted surfaces washed with a damp cloth often?
- Are my children safe from stairways?
- How do I keep my children safe from electric outlets?
- Do open windows have screens to prevent children from falling?
- Is there a safe, smoke free area for my children to play?
- Do my children have a safe sleeping area?
- Do babies have a safe sleeping area at night? (safe crib without pillows, soft toys, or bumper pads)
- Do babies have sleeper pajamas?

### **Who is my baby safe with when I am away?**

- How do they keep your baby safe around water? (Bathtubs, ponds, swimming pools etc.)
- What do they do when your baby cries? (Please don't shake the baby)

### **What else can I do?**

- Do not use alcohol or other substances when pregnant or with your baby
- Consider breast-feeding

### **Who can you count on when you need help?**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Parents</b>       | <b>Extended Family</b>                            |
| <b>Friends</b>       | <b>Neighbors</b>                                  |
| <b>Siblings</b>      | <b>Clergy</b>                                     |
| <b>Tribal Elders</b> | <b>Anyone else the family considers important</b> |