

INFANT CARE CORE CONCEPTS
HEALTHY KENT 2010
Infant Health Implementation Team



In an effort to decrease infant mortality and morbidity in Kent County, we, the Infant Health Implementation Team of Healthy Kent 2010, believe all infants should be given the best comprehensive pediatric care, and their parents or primary caregivers should receive screening and education about risk factors that can impact infant health. In order to promote this superior care within our community, we believe that the following core concepts must be included in all pediatric care:

All infants should:

1. Have documentation of an accurate medical history, including family history, and exposure to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs during the prenatal period.
2. Have a medical home and receive regular well-child checks and preventive health care, including age-appropriate immunizations, dental care, and Early Periodic Screening and Diagnostic Testing (EPSDT).
3. Be given a hearing test at, or shortly after, birth.
4. Have regular developmental screenings, including cognitive, linguistic, social, and motor skill development.
5. Be assessed for proper nutrition intake and growth patterns.

All parents or primary caregivers should be:

1. Assessed for the ability to comprehend information provided during pediatric care, including literacy challenges, language barriers, and learning disabilities. Education should be culturally appropriate, comprehensive, accurate, and personalized to the individual caregiver and infant needs.
2. Assessed for the presence of adequate social support, including the ability to cope with stress, and the availability of respite care.
3. Assessed for mental health risks, including the presence of depression or post-partum depression.
4. Assessed for parenting skills, including parent-child attachment, the provision of mental and physical stimulation, and use of age-appropriate discipline techniques.
5. Assessed for alcohol and drug use in the household and infant exposure to second-hand smoke.
6. Assessed for the presence of abuse or violence in the home, or any form of infant abuse, neglect, or maltreatment.

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7. Assessed for safe living environment for the infant, including safe sleep, lead exposure, accident prevention, and proper use of child safety seats.
8. Informed that breast milk is the preferred feeding for all infants, be aware of all the advantages of breast milk over formula, and be encouraged to follow the American Academy of Pediatrics breast-feeding guidelines.
9. Assessed for problems with breast-feeding and be offered appropriate support and resources.
10. Informed of the importance of child spacing and be assessed for the use of effective pregnancy prevention methods.
11. Assessed for sufficient resources to meet basic needs, including health care, child care, transportation, food, clothing, and housing.
12. Offered appropriate treatment, resources, and referrals to ensure a healthy infancy.