



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KEEPING BABIES SAFE FROM THE START

Whether babies are crawling around the house, sleeping soundly in a crib or riding in the car, it is important to remember safety is the key. Parents and caregivers need to know what steps they can take to protect babies and young children from some of the most common, and sometimes overlooked, dangers to help keep their babies safe from the start.

In honor of September as National Baby Safety Month, First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission encourages parents and caregivers to take the opportunity to locate resources and educate themselves about how to keep babies and young children safe. First 5 Butte County also recommends the following safety tips to help ensure you are creating a safe and healthy environment for your baby.

Car Safety:

- Use a car seat every time a child rides in a car; the back seat is the safest place for a child to ride
- Babies should ride in a rear-facing car seat until they are 1-year-old and weigh at least 20 pounds
- Children must be in child car seats or booster seats until they are 6-years-old or weigh 60 pounds

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Home Safety:

- Keep first aid supplies handy
- Keep household cleaning products, beauty supplies and medicines in a locked cabinet out of children's reach
- Use special safety locks on all drawers and cabinets
- Put outlet covers on all sockets
- Never leave children alone in the bathtub

Crib Safety:

- Place a baby on his or her back to sleep
- Do not cover a baby's face or head while he or she is asleep
- Do not put blankets, pillows, bumper pads or stuffed toys in the crib
- Do not expose infants to second hand tobacco smoke.

First 5 Butte County is committed to improving the lives of children and families. For more information about First 5 Butte County programs, visit www.buttecounty.net/bccfc or call (530) 538-7964. For additional safety tips to help you celebrate Baby Safety Month in September, please visit the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Web site at www.aap.org.

Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission distributes approximately \$2 million a year in Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.

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