

Safe Sleep Specialist Job Description

TITLE: SAFE SLEEP SPECIALIST

STATUS: Full-time, Non-Exempt

QUALIFICATIONS: Experience in early childhood education and/or human services field.
Bachelor's degree preferred.

DEFINITION: The Safe Sleep Specialist will work in collaboration with local hospitals, health departments, federally qualified health care clinics, and other community agencies and organizations to deliver the First Birthday Project: Safe Sleep, Safe Baby program to three (3) Northwest Missouri counties (Buchanan, DeKalb, and Grundy) where infant mortality rates exceed the national average. Since lack of safe sleep practices account for the majority of infant deaths, the primary focus of the Safe Sleep Specialist will be providing TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) eligible families, with new infant(s), in the identified counties with safe sleep education, a portable crib, and other supplies recognized to lessen the risks of infant death due to unsafe sleep environments.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provide information and education about safe sleep and the First Birthday Project to interested community members within the three (3) identified Missouri counties.
- Distribute portable cribs to TANF eligible parent(s) either at the hospital or in the home, depending on parental preference in accordance with the following protocol.
 - First, parent(s) will complete a pre-test to assess their knowledge of current safe sleep practices.
 - Secondly, the parent(s) will watch an educational video about safe sleep environments and practices.
 - Thirdly, the parent(s) will receive their "Safe Sleep Survival Kit" which includes the portable crib.
 - Lastly, the parent(s) will be given a post-test to determine if any new information was learned.
- Conduct follow-up visits at the home, two-four (2-4) months after distribution, to assess usage of the portable crib, reiterate the ABC's of safe sleep, and to answer any questions.
- Provide a diaper incentives to increase the likelihood that families participate in the follow-up visit.
- Assess for safe sleep environments among participating families.
- Provide families with safe sleep education.
- Distribute Safe Sleep Kits to eligible families.

- Monitor crib usage and safe sleep behaviors among participants.
- Track any sleep-related deaths that occur in this target population.
- Speak with families about the alternative sleeping environments that must also be safe, such as child care environments, grandparents' or other relatives' homes, etc.
- Enhance the community education aspect of the First Birthday Project through the implementation of a Safe Sleep Ambassador program modeled after the one used by Cribs for Kids (www.cribsforkids.org), a national organization respected for their work around infant safe sleep.
- Promote and encourage participation in the Safe Sleep Ambassador program to expand knowledge of safe sleep in the three (3) identified Missouri counties.
- Emphasize the importance of safe sleep education and disseminate it effectively throughout the target communities.
- Participate and coordinate outreach activities that include making presentations to non-profit organizations, government agencies, and at community events.
- Provide parent(s) and caregivers with a variety of educational information and tools designed to address and improve safe sleep, vaccinations, breastfeeding, and the effects of exposure to smoke, alcohol, and illegal drugs on infants.
- Other duties as assigned.

SKILLS & ABILITIES:

- Ability to provide positive, outstanding customer service.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Ability to interact positively with a variety of personalities and socio-economic populations.
- Problem-solving skills, organizational skills, time management skills, and excellent oral and written communications skills are essential.
- Proficiency in a variety of computer software applications are required including Microsoft Office Suite, email and internet applications.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Travel is required. Individual **must** possess a valid driver's license with chauffeur's classification and access to a reliable, insured motor vehicle.
- Overtime may be required.
- Individual must pass a background check prior to an offer of employment.