Choose Your Partner Carefully

Choose your partner carefully. Your child’s life may depend on it. Never leave your child with someone you don’t trust to keep your child safe. Many children are harmed each year by adults who are not trustworthy or who just don’t know how to take care of a child.

Your baby is counting on you to make the right decision. For more information and/or support, contact Prevent Child Abuse Nevada by phone 1-702-895-5053, by email preventchildabusenevada@unlv.edu, or visit our website:

www.preventchildabusenevada.org

Choose Your Partner Carefully
Campaign Community Partners:
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department - Abuse and Neglect Detail
Clark County Department of Family Services
Clark County District Attorney’s Office
Southern Nevada Children’s Assessment Center

To Report Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect
Please Call:
Emergency 9-1-1
Child Protective Services
1-800-992-5757

Prevent Child Abuse Nevada
Nevada Institute for Children’s Research & Policy
Prevent Child Abuse - Nevada
Phone: 702-895-5053
Fax: 702-895-2657
E-mail: PreventChildAbuseNevada@unlv.edu
Website: www.preventchildabusenevada.org

PreventChildAbuseNevada.org
Very few people believe that someone they love or trust could ever hurt their child. But it happens.

Choosing the right person to care for your child, including a partner, is one of the most important decisions a parent can make. Just because someone is a lover, relative, or close friend does not mean they are able to safely take care of your child. How well do you know the person who will be caring for your child? Do they make good decisions? Are they responsible and trustworthy? Your baby is counting on you to make the right decision.

Questions to ask yourself:
- How does he/she treat other women/men in their life? How does he/she treat other children (nieces, nephews, friends’ children, etc.)?
- Does he/she get angry when you spend time with your child?
- Does he/she get angry or impatient when your child cries or has a tantrum.
- Does he/she call your child bad names or put them down?
- Does he/she think it’s funny to scare your child?
- Does he/she make all the decisions for you and your child?
- Does he/she pretend when he/she hurts your child that you are to blame or that it’s no big deal?
- Does he/she tell you that your child is a nuisance or annoying?
- Does he/she scare your child by using guns, knives, or other weapons?

If you answered “yes” to even one of these questions, your child could be at risk. Never leave your child with someone you don’t trust to keep your child safe.

When choosing a person to care for your child, you should select someone who:
- Has experience caring for babies and young children
- Is patient and mature enough to care for an excited or crying baby
- Understands that young children must always be watched.
- Will never shake, hit, yell at, make fun of, or withhold food from a child as punishment
- Does not abuse alcohol or drugs or illegally carry a weapon, and will not surround a child with others who may be drinking, using drugs, or carrying weapons illegally.

Before leaving your child in someone’s care, ask about their experience and how he/she would respond to an upset or unwell child. Post an emergency contact list in a visible place, on your refrigerator, for example.

Make sure the person you choose to care for your child knows what to do when your baby won’t stop crying:
- Check to see if he or she is hungry, wet, cold or hot, etc.
- Offer a pacifier.
- Walk around holding the baby close in his or her arms or in a carrier, try talking, or singing.
- Call a trusted friend, relative, or neighbor who is able to come over and talk to him or her.
- If all else fails, put the baby in the crib on his or her back, making sure the child is safe—check in every five minutes or so... it is much better to let the baby cry than to do something to stop the crying that may be harmful.
- Never shake the child—shaking a baby can cause bleeding in the brain, which can injure or kill a child ... it takes only a few seconds of shaking to seriously hurt a baby’s brain.

Warning Signs - Choose a person to care for your child that is NOT:
- Angry or impatient when children have tantrums, cry, or misbehave.
- Violent and/or controlling with his or her partner.
- Abusing alcohol and drugs, including marijuana.
- Using prescription medications that have bad side effects or make the person drowsy.
- Untrustworthy for any reason.

Prevent Child Abuse Nevada