

Purpose

The purpose of Dane's Legacy is to make parents and caregivers aware of daycare providers giving children sedative medications to regulate sleep.

According to an article in CBS News, drug makers are adamant that their medicines aren't intended for infants and put warnings on containers that doctors should be consulted for use in any child younger than age 6. Dr. William Sears, a pediatrician and author of book on infant sleep, said it is an "old school" practice to use cold and allergy medications to sedate babies, but even using small amount of drugs is dangerous. "Categorically, sedative medications have no place in day care," he said. "Young babies need to awaken easily to protect themselves from dangers of choking when they spit up. The sedative interferes with that natural waking mechanism," Sears said. In the last three years, at least 10 cases of day care workers allegedly sedating children with cold medicines and cough syrups have been investigated nationwide. Four babies died. At least four people were charged, with one acquitted. Some cases are still pending.

Web Sites

Here are some websites that give useful information on choosing a quality daycare center and questions to ask once you have narrowed your preferences down.

www.cmsu.edu/x27368.xml

www.stv.org/babyworld/crib_sheets/childcare.htm

www.yale.edu/hronline/worklife/cctypes.html

www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/09/02/earlyshow

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Bridger FCCLA
Bridger High School
P.O. Box 467
Bridger, MT 59014
Phone: (406) 662-3533
E-mail: mrs_kaufman@bridger.k12.mt.us

Selection Tips

1. Start early. No matter what type of care you are considering, a child care center or care in someone else's home, finding the right child care facility can take some time.
2. Make a call. Begin your search by calling your local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) center. CCR&Rs will give you facts about child care, and a list of child care options that can meet your needs. Make sure you ask about your state's day care requirements. You should also call the day care center you are considering and schedule an interview with the day care provider and view the building in which your child will be staying.
3. During the interview, don't be afraid to ask lots of questions. Some things you should ask to see include:
 - *Identification.
 - *Day care license.
 - *Certification of CPR.
 - *Ask about their training and education.
Does the caregiver attend workshops and classes on childcare?
 - *Do a background check. Look for three references see what they have to say about the caregiver.
4. After you have made your choice, make sure you check in during drop-off and pick-up times. Take time to look around from time to time and ask how your child is doing.

Red Flags

- ~Child lethargic, sleepy after daycare.
- ~Child napping at daycare when usually not napping at home.
- ~Potty-trained child wetting the bed while at daycare during naptime.
- ~Day-care providers not having a true “Open Door” policy.
- ~All children take a nap at the same time.
- ~Day-care providers won’t let you into a certain room.
- ~Many cases are diagnosed as SIDS and the poisoning goes unnoticed.

“Dane’s Law”

An act prohibiting the administration of any medicine or prescription drug to a child in an licensed or unlicensed day-care facility without proper authorization from the child’s parent or guardian; and providing a criminal penalty.

Sponsors

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Dane’s Legacy



January 24, 2002

January 31, 2003

On January 31, 2003, one week after his first birthday, Dane Heggem was rushed to the hospital from daycare. He could not be revived. After much investigation, it was shown that he had been drugged with Benadryl. The parents had not given the provider permission to administer these drugs. The sole purpose of the medicating was to make the child sleep.