**Tips for Calming a Crying Baby**

**Things to try:**

* Feed baby slowly and burp often
* Make sure baby’s diaper is dry
* Give baby a warm bath
* Dim lights and lower noise level
* Play soft music, sing or talk to baby in a calm voice
* Hold baby close and rock gently
* Take baby for a car or stroller ride
* Call a friend or relative you trust
* Put baby in a crib or bassinet and take a break
* NEVER SHAKE OR HIT A BABY
* Call 1-800-4-ACHILD 24 hours/day (1-800-422-4453)

**Your child is counting on you to choose a safe babysitter**

Did you know that shaking a baby could cause blindness, hearing loss, retardation, paralysis and even death!

Statistics show that the person who most often injures the baby is either the father of the baby or mother’s boyfriend.

It might be difficult or embarrassing to talk about these things with the person who will be watching your child, but it’s important for your child’s safety!

Be sure to call and check on your child while you are away.

**Friends, family members, caregivers, neighbors…Choosing a babysitter…**

* Does the sitter have a history of violence, anger control problems, child abuse or animal abuse?
* Do they have an alcohol or substance abuse habit?
* Ask how she/he handles crying, especially long, hard crying.
* Ask how much experience he/she has in caring for children the same age as your child.
* When the babysitter is upset or frustrated, what does he/she do about it?
* Do they know infant & child CPR & first aid?
* Do they know how to recognize when your child is sick?
* Ask how they would handle difficult situations like refusing to nap, or crying that won’t stop.
* If they’ve cared for other children, ask for references and check them out.
* Do a police background check.
* Watch to see if your child is handled gently and lovingly by your babysitter.
* Watch to see if your child acts fearful, sick, injured or distressed after they’ve been with the babysitter.
* Try to limit the number of babysitters to no more than 3 different people.
* Ask yourself, “Do I really trust this person with my child?”