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**UNIT:** Growth and Development**LESSON:** Neonate--Safety**TIME:** 1 day

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**COMPETENCIES:**

Identify safety concerns related to the neonate. (Options 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6)

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**OVERVIEW/SUMMARY:**

Safety for the neonate is of primary concern. Many changes must be made in the lives of active adults to make their world more safe for a baby. **TEACHER NOTE:** Share stories you have experienced or heard concerning safety.

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**MOTIVATOR:**

Have students respond to the following true/false questions concerning safety for neonates:

1. Before any product intended for use by a neonate is manufactured, it must be proven safe for the child.
2. Before bringing the baby home from the hospital, you will be trained in safety procedures for the neonate.
3. You should never allow neonates to cry.
4. It will add to the child's sense of security to use baby furniture that belonged to older family members.

Discuss the answers:

1. People should buy only products that are marked with a special marking indicating that a product is safe for neonates. Unfortunately, all products are not high quality and are not safe for the baby.
2. The hospital will tell you very little about the care of the newborn. You must watch and be aware of safety-proofing your home.
3. Crying is healthy for a baby. Do not let the baby cry for long periods of time, but do not be afraid of his/her cries, either.
4. Be very careful when using old baby furniture. New safety codes are much more strict than old codes that allowed many children to be hurt. Make certain your child has safe, quality furniture.

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**LESSON OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:****OPTION 1****BOOK:** What Are Babies Like?**OPTION 2--Competency 1**

Use the **INFANT SAFETY AND EQUIPMENT STUDY GUIDE** to discuss safety and equipment needs of infants. Have pictures or actual equipment to show the students.

**OPTION 3--Competency 1**

**SHAKING AND TOSSING:** Invite a guest speaker from Social Services, a hospital, or Health Department to talk to the class concerning shaking and tossing infants and the damage they can cause. You may also wish to share the **SHAKING AND TOSSING HANDOUT** included in the teacher information. There is a KTVX Cover Story, "Handle with Care." Contact the Cover Story producer at the KTVX station at 1-801-975-4400 for information on how to receive a video copy.

**OPTION 4--Competency 1**

**CHILD SAFETY SEATS:** Invite a guest speaker from the Health Department or Highway Patrol to discuss the laws and importance of car safety restraints. The Health Department should have the video, "THE LOVING CONNECTION: CHILD SAFETY SEATS," as well as pamphlets and posters. You may get information about getting a video of your own by calling 1-916-657-7202.

**OPTION 5--Competency 1**

**VIDEO:** View the video "Baby Talk," \$24.95, available through Childbirth Graphics or from Cambridge.

**OPTION 6--Competency 1**

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Contact your local health department to come do the presentation "Don't Shake the Baby" for your class.

**OPTION 7--Competency 1**

**SAFETY BROCHURE:** Divide the class into small groups and have each group design a safety brochure for parents. They can focus on a single safety precaution or generalize and discuss general safety.