

# Safeguarding

## Crying babies – At home



Professionals promoting the “ICON” initiative.

Infant crying is normal.

Comfort methods can sometimes soothe.

Its **Ok** to walk away.

**Never**, ever shake or hurt a baby.

Research suggests that some lose control when a baby’s crying becomes too much. Some go in to shake a baby with devastating consequences. With this in mind, ICON is a prevention programme that can support parents and give them coping strategies.

We can help as practitioners to –

- Help parents understand that crying is normal, all parents can feel like this.
- Make a positive effort to engage with male carer/dad.
- Explain that crying is a normal part of development.
- Reassure parents that babies are not doing this on purpose.
- Support parents in coping with their own emotions and stress
- Teach parents soothing and safe sleep techniques.
- Inform parents/ carer about sharing the ICON leaflet with anyone who cares for your baby.

## Task 1

Use the statements above to reflect on your practice. How do you support parents in your setting currently under these headings? What could you do more effectively?

## Task 2

Watch video link [Preventing traumatic head injuries in babies](https://youtu.be/Q3mc0FhrNF8) - <https://youtu.be/Q3mc0FhrNF8> in your team setting and explore the leaflets/resources available [Resources | ICON \(iconcope.org\)](https://iconcope.org/resources/) - <https://iconcope.org/resources/> to share with parents.

Discuss with your team, your thoughts around the resources and how you may disseminate the information to parents and carers appropriately.