SafeCare Goes to Arizona!

By Shannon Self-Brown & Ericka Lewis

NSTRC faculty and staff are excited to welcome a new agency from Tuscon, AZ, Parent Aid, into the SafeCare family! Three home visitors, Desiree Tarr, Brandy Golden, and Veronica Williams were trained in September, and two coaches will be trained Spring 2012. Parent Aid was established in the 1990, with the mission of preventing child abuse by partnering with distressed families to provide in-home support, parent education, and mentoring. Parent Aid home visitors will be providing SafeCare as part of their in-home family services, and will be working with a diverse group of families, including a large Spanish-speaking population, teen parents, couples, and families at risk for child maltreatment and neglect. Parent Aid staff have agreed to help us test our SafeCare portal for tracking implementation and uploading SafeCare documentation. Look for more information on the launching of the portal in 2012. We look forward to working with Parent Aid to successfully implement the SafeCare model, and are thrilled to add the Grand Canyon State to our map!

ATTENTION SAFECARE PROVIDERS:

Would you like a chance to win a $50 Amazon gift card? Fill out our newest SafeCare provider survey to enter to win by clicking here!

Better yet, suggest a new name for our quarterly newsletter as the answer to one of the SafeCare provider survey questions for a second entry to win!
Cultural Research in SafeCare Gets Recognized

Congratulations to NSTRC faculty, Shannon Self-Brown, Dan Whitaker, John Lutzker, and Anna Edwards, along with Kim Frederick, Sue Binder and Ja-mi Blankenship, for having their work in cultural adaptations of evidence-based parent training programs (EPTs), namely SafeCare, becoming a highlight in Prevention|Action, an internationally renowned online news publication reporting innovation and effectiveness among child health and development improvement programs. Their manuscript, published July 2011 in Children and Youth Services Review, “Examining the need for cultural adaptation to an evidence-based parent training program targeting the prevention of child maltreatment”, is highlighted in Prevention|Action’s “The benefits of Tinkering.” Click here to read the full text.

External Resources for SafeCare Providers

Looking for some additional resources for to provide your SafeCare families? We’ve found two great resources that we’d like to share with you!

The first is a downloadable coloring book provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), called “Color Me Safe”. The coloring book follows a family as they take simple steps to prevent injuries around their home. Click here to access it in English and here to access it in Spanish.

The second resource is meant for parents with infants to lower the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). It includes a great visual that explains what a safe sleep environment should look like. Click here to access it.
In 2010, NSTRC obtained funding from GSU’s International Strategic Initiatives (ISI) program to develop SafeCare International (SCI), an adaptation of SafeCare for international use. Together with Drs. Sue Binder, our International Health Expert, and Jenelle Shanley, our Training Director, the materials have at last been developed, and they are in demand! SafeCare training has been requested by the National Society for the Prevention of Child Cruelty (NSPCC) in the United Kingdom (UK), and by Child Fund International for training in Belarus. The Health module is the first of the international modules to be implemented, and training is already underway in the UK. It is receiving rave reviews!

The goals of our international work were to identify the basic principles we want parents to take away from SafeCare, which then served as the basis for the international adaptation. For example, although health care systems vary across countries, the basic principles about what constitutes an emergency and what health problems can be treated at home are fairly similar across all cultures. After determining the basic principles, we then revised the home visitor and parent training materials by removing items that are specific to the United States to ensure that the materials instead capture cross-cultural principles. The result is a new health module composed of basic health principles that can be applied in any country.

See Figure 1 for the simplified, International Health decision-making flowchart. New, more simple role-play scenarios have also been generated around this new decision making process. In addition, more emphasis has been added to the international health module on health prevention, including exercise, nutrition, immunizations, and hygiene. Feedback on the new health module has been so positive that NSTRC is now in the process of deciding how this new, more simple approach, might help improve the U.S. health module we use today. Stay tuned!
A FATHER’S SAFECARE EXPERIENCE
By Patrick Cates

My SafeCare experience was a great success with my daughter and me, thanks to one of the most loveable people in the world, Ms. Rachel Galanter, with the Family Center of Durham, NC. I voluntarily participated in the program for the following reasons: 1) to better communicate with my daughter, 2) to understand what a good parent is, and 3) to learn what to do in the case of an emergency. This program taught me not only what I set out to learn, but it went above and beyond by giving me skills to become a better parent.

We started the SafeCare program with the Parent-infant Interaction module. I learned what developmental milestones my daughter should be attempting to overcome, such as sitting up by herself, exploring objects, and responding to simple verbal requests. Each week I was able to check off a milestone my daughter had overcome; and as a father, that was time well spent. The program also provided me with a “Fun Activities for Infants” pamphlet, which gave me new ideas of activities to do with my daughter. Now, my favorite thing to do is to read aloud to her and make facial expressions the book’s characters would make. It’s so funny how my daughter responds to the faces that I make and how she tries to imitate them back to me.

The SafeCare module I enjoyed the most was Safety. The Safety module taught me how to locate and dispose hazards from my home. I was then provided with outlet covers and cabinet locks to prevent my daughter’s access to stored hazards in my home. I also enjoyed the SafeCare Health Manual, which came with the Sick or Injured Child Checklist form (SICC) and the Health Recording Chart.

I will take what I have learned from the program, and I will apply the skills I’ve learned throughout my child’s development. I would recommend this program to individuals who don’t want to be just a good parent, but wants to be a great parent to their children.