

**SafeCare® Colorado
Referral Protocol**

Where do I send referrals? pjohnson@co.montezuma.co.us or Fax 970-565-0647

Where do I send this information? pjohnson@co.montezuma.co.us OR Fax 970-565-0647

What do I tell parents about SafeCare? For consistency, please use the exact script below: "We work with Montezuma Public Health, a community agency that provides support to families with young children. One free resource they have is called SafeCare. SafeCare provides in-home support to help with challenging child behaviors, learn how to respond to common child sicknesses or injuries, and help remove common safety hazards that children often get into. Montezuma Public Health could tell you more about SafeCare--may I give them your contact information?"

Referral Source Information

Referral agency: _____ Date of referral: _____
Individual making referral: _____ Contact #: _____
Reason for Referral: _____

Child Welfare Referral Source

Note: No risk criteria needed for child welfare expect where required by your county

Check one: Screened-out referral Closed assessment Closed case
County: _____

Non-Child Welfare Referral Source

(Check all that apply; must meet at least 3 characteristics):

Family Characteristics

- Child with special needs
- Housing issues (instability, hazardous, etc.)
- Multiple children ≤ 5 years in the home
- Public assistance recipient
- Single parent (including absent partner)
- Stepfather or unrelated male caregiver in home

Caregiver(s) Characteristics

- Any prior report to child welfare
- Childhood experience of abuse/neglect
- Violence in the home
- Less than high school education
- Mental health issue
- Substance use issue
- Young caregiver age (< 20)

Notes (e.g. Current services; important information about family): _____

All Referral Sources

What information do I need to get from families to make the referral?

Child age five or younger living in the home: Yes No
SafeCare described to caregiver: Yes No If no, please explain: _____
Caregiver confirms no open child welfare case: Yes No Don't know

Household Information:

Primary caregiver name: _____ M F DOB: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Secondary caregiver name: _____ M F DOB: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Primary caregiver relationship to child(ren): _____

Secondary caregiver relationship to child(ren): _____

Street address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Primary Phone: _____ OK for Message: Yes No Texting: Yes No

E-Mail: _____

Ages of children in the home: _____ Caregiver(s) Primary language: _____

SafeCare® Colorado Referral Protocol

SafeCare® is a voluntary home visiting program for families with 1 or more children between 0-5 years.

Families must meet specific criteria to be eligible for services.

Referral sources are asked to use the exact script below when referring families.

A referral to SafeCare does not replace the need to make a mandated report to child welfare if child abuse or neglect is suspected.

What is SafeCare®?

SafeCare® is a structured, evidence-based, in-home program that provides direct skill training to parents in the areas of parenting, child safety, and child health. In Colorado, SafeCare® is being provided as a voluntary program for families who do not have an open child welfare case. The program targets families with children ages zero to five years. SafeCare® typically takes 18-20 sessions to complete (about 4-6 months) and each session lasts 1-1.5 hours. SafeCare® is delivered in the home by trained staff.

What type of families would benefit from SafeCare®?

- Families with 1 or more children between 0-5 years, who need extra support managing child behavior, keeping their home free of safety hazards, or taking care of their child's basic health care needs.

What will families learn?

- **Health Module** –Home visitors teach parents to use health guides, identify and prevent common child illnesses and injuries, and decide when to treat at home, call the doctor, or visit the emergency room.
- **Home Safety Module** –Home visitors teach parents to identify and eliminate safety and health hazards and childproof the home.
- **Parenting Module** –Home visitors teach parents to provide engaging and stimulating activities, increase positive interactions, and prevent challenging child behavior.

SafeCare® in Colorado

A review of Colorado's substantiated child abuse reports shows that young children under age five are at the greatest risk for being subjected to child abuse or neglect. Over the past 34 years more than 60 studies have been conducted to develop and validate SafeCare®. Home hazards were reduced by 78% after SafeCare®, and there was an 84% increase in the use of positive parenting skills (Gershater-Molko, Lutzker, & Wesch, 2003). As a result SafeCare® has been designated as an evidence-based program for parenting.

Over the next three years, SafeCare® will be implemented in counties throughout Colorado. During this time, continuous quality improvement will be conducted to learn more about Colorado's unique culture and the need for SafeCare® in Colorado communities. In year one, SafeCare® Colorado will be implemented in Denver County and Jefferson County in partnership with Savio House; Mesa County in partnership with Mesa County Department of Public Health; La Plata, Montezuma, Dolores and San Juan counties, the Southern Ute Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in partnership with the Montezuma County Public Health Department; and Cheyenne, Kit Carson, Yuma, Sedgwick, Logan, Washington, Lincoln, Elbert, Morgan and Phillips counties in partnership with Baby Bear Hugs.

Where do I send referrals?

pjohnson@co.montezuma.co.us or Fax 970-545-0647

Who do I contact for questions?

Penny Johnson at 970-565-3056 or pjohnson@co.montezuma.co.us