

Choose Your Partner Carefully

Choose your partner carefully. Your child's life may depend on it. Never leave your child with someone you don't trust to keep your child safe. Many children are harmed each year by adults who are not trustworthy or who just don't know how to take care of a child.

Your baby is counting on you to make the right decision. For more information and/or support, contact Prevent Child Abuse Nevada by phone 1-702-895-5053, by email preventchildabusenevada@unlv.edu, or visit our website:

www.preventchildabusenevada.org



**Prevent Child Abuse
Nevada**

a provisional chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America

Choose Your Partner Carefully Campaign Community Partners:

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police
Department - Abuse and Neglect Detail

Clark County Department of
Family Services

Clark County District Attorney's Office

Southern Nevada Children's
Assessment Center

To Report Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

Please Call:
Emergency 9-1-1
Child Protective Services
1-800-992-5757

Prevent Child Abuse Nevada

Nevada Institute for Children's Research & Policy
Prevent Child Abuse - Nevada
Phone: 702-895-5053
Fax: 702-895-2657
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YOUR BABY IS COUNTING ON YOU

CHOOSE YOUR PARTNER CAREFULLY

PreventChildAbuseNevada.org



Very few people believe that someone they love or trust could ever hurt their child. But it happens.

Choosing the right person to care for your child, including a partner, is one of the most important decisions a parent can make. Just because someone is a lover, relative, or close friend does not mean they are able to safely take care of your child. How well do you know the person who will be caring for your child? Do they make good decisions? Are they responsible and trustworthy? Your baby is counting on you to make the right decision.

Questions to ask yourself:

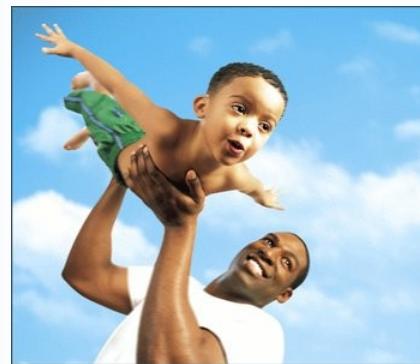
- How does he/she treat **other women/men** in their life? How does he/she treat **other children** (nieces, nephews, friends' children, etc.)?
- Does he/she **get angry** when you spend time with your child?
- Does he/she **get angry or impatient** when your child cries or has a tantrum.
- Does he/she call your child **bad names or put them down**?
- Does he/she think it's funny to **scare your child**?
- Does he/she **make all the decisions** for you and your child?
- Does he/she **put you down** or tell you that you're a bad parent or that you shouldn't have your kids?
- Does he/she pretend **when he/she hurts your child** that you are to blame or that it's no big deal?
- Does he/she tell you that your child is a **nuisance or annoying**?
- Does he/she **scare your child** by using guns, knives, or other weapons?

If you answered "yes" to even one of these questions, your child could be at risk. Never leave your child with someone you don't trust to keep your child safe.

When choosing a person to care for your child, you should select someone who:

- Has **experience** caring for babies and young children
- Is **patient and mature** enough to care for an excited or crying baby
- Understands that young children must **always** be watched.
- Will **never** shake, hit, yell at, make fun of, or withhold food from a child as punishment
- Does **not abuse alcohol or drugs or illegally carry a weapon**, and will not surround a child with others who may be drinking, using drugs, or carrying weapons illegally.

Before leaving your child in someone's care, ask about their **experience** and **how he/she would respond to an upset or unwell child**. Post an emergency contact list in a visible place, on your refrigerator, for example.



Make sure the person you choose to care for your child knows what to do when your baby won't stop crying:

- Check to see if he or she is **hungry, wet, cold or hot**, etc.
- Offer a **pacifier**.
- **Walk around** holding the baby close in his or her arms or in a carrier, try talking, or singing.
- **Call a trusted friend, relative, or neighbor** who is able to come over and talk to him or her.
- If all else fails, put the baby in the crib on his or her back, making sure the child is safe—check in every five minutes or so... **it is much better to let the baby cry than to do something to stop the crying that may be harmful**.
- **Never shake the child**—shaking a baby can cause bleeding in the brain, which can injure or kill a child ... it takes only a few seconds of shaking to seriously hurt a baby's brain.



Warning Signs - Choose a person to care for your child that is NOT:

- **Angry or impatient** when children have tantrums, cry, or misbehave.
- **Violent and/or controlling** with his or her partner.
- **Abusing alcohol and drugs**, including marijuana.
- **Using prescription medications** that have bad side effects or make the person drowsy.
- **Untrustworthy** for any reason.



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