February 2012

Re: Practicing Healthy Infant Sleep Environments (PHISE) Poster Contest

Dear Educators,

Did you know that every year in the State of New Jersey approximately 60 infants (under 12 months old) die from sleep-related causes, like Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) or Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID)? Did you know that nearly all of these deaths are considered preventable?

The Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board and the Department of Children and Families, in partnership with the Departments of Education and Health, are holding a poster contest in New Jersey schools to increase future parents’ knowledge of healthy infant sleep environments and practices. This contest will be open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students only. We recommend that health educators introduce this project to their students and then partner with art educators for technical support. The student with the winning poster will receive a $100 gift card; 12 runners up will receive $50 gift cards. The winners’ schools will also receive a $50 prize. The winning posters will be published in a calendar to be distributed to target populations in New Jersey.

Posters should be on 11 by 8.5 inch paper and we recommend your students use markers so that their work of art will translate well to a printed calendar. Each poster must be submitted with a registration form (included in this mailing) along with a pre-test and a post-test (also included) so we can see how much your students learned.

To help you present this opportunity to your students we have also included an Educator’s Guide on Practicing Healthy Infant Sleep Environments and a Student Hand-Out you can provide to your students, (after they’ve completed the pre-test) which they can take home and share with their parents/guardians.
Please have your students submit their posters, along with the registration form / parental consent, pre-test and post-test to the address below by April 10, 2013. Winners will be announced in May of 2013.

Thank you for your participation in this worth-while event. There is absolutely no reason why we can’t save 60 lives next year; with your help, we just might be able to.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Anthony V. D'Urso, Psy.D., Chairman
New Jersey Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board

[Signature]

Lisa Kay Hartman, CDR Coordinator
Office of Performance Management and Accountability
New Jersey Department of Children and Families

Enclosed: PHISE Contest Guidelines
PHISE Educator’s Guide
PHISE Student’s Guide
Student Registration Form*
Student Pre-Test*
Student Post-Test*

* Indicates that this must be completed and returned along with the poster.