

Coming Fall 2010

Share what you know Inform your friends Reduce the risk



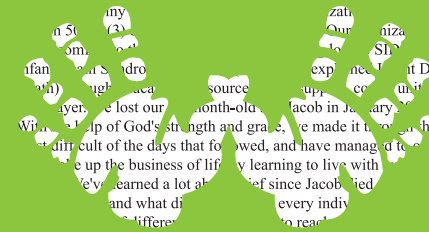
Tiny Handprints Annual Fundraiser



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For more information visit us at:
www.tinyhandprints.org

TINY NEWS PRINT



NEWSLETTER OF THE JACOB HUGHES WILLIAMS FOUNDATION

The Journey Continues Our Outlook for 2010

Stephanie Williams

Ahhh, 2010...what I want to know is where's my flying car? I mean, weren't we supposed to be living a little more like the Jetsons by now? While technological advances may not have lived up to my childhood expectations, 2010 is shaping up to be an exciting year for medical and other advances in the SIDS/SUID community. From new research findings on a possible biological link to SIDS to risk-reduction resources and free webinars, we hope you'll find this newsletter packed with information to keep you up-to-date on all the SIDS/SUID headlines.

Further, it is with great joy that we announce the birth of the newest addition to the Tiny Handprints family! Currin Ladd Williams was born on December 30, 2009 weighing 6 pounds, 4 ounces. At nearly 8 weeks old, he's a whopping 10+ pounds and is a delightful presence in the Tennessee Williams' household.

Along with our goal of reaching 500 families this year and planning our next fundraising event, it's sure to be a busy year! As always, we hope you'll continue on this journey with us, and keep us in your prayers as we seek to continue our support of families who have lost an infant to SIDS/SUID.

Upcoming Editions of the Tiny News Print

The next edition of our newsletter is coming soon! To submit your stories, poems and other items for possible inclusion in the newsletter, or to subscribe to the newsletter, please e-mail us: contact@tinyhandprints.org.

March, 2010 . Volume 2 . Issue 1

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A Day to Remember

Saturday, March 13, 2010

5k Run/Walk & 1 Mile Family Fun Run

Mauldin, SC

In memory of Emily Ware, all proceeds benefit CJ Foundation for SIDS. Race day events will include an appearance by J. R. Martinez, war veteran and star on All My Children, a silent auction, food and family fun! For more information and to register for this event, visit the Events page of the Tiny Handprints website.

In The News

Low Serotonin Production A Likely Cause For SIDS

Dear SIDS Families and Friends,

We're writing to you today on the heels of an important SIDS study. This study, partially funded by the CJ Foundation for SIDS, has revealed a likely link between low serotonin levels in infants and SIDS. This is a significant breakthrough for doctors and researchers in the field as they close in on the mysterious cause of infant deaths. Continue reading below for a recap of the findings.

Sincerely,

Linda Tantawi
Executive Director, CJ Foundation for SIDS

Taking the next step in more than 20 years of research, researchers at Children's Hospital Boston have linked sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) with low production of serotonin in the brainstem, based on a comparison of brainstem samples from infants dying of SIDS compared to brainstems of infants dying from other causes.

The findings, published in the Feb. 3 issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, may give a concrete approach to identifying babies at risk for SIDS, the leading cause of death for infants between 1 and 12 months old in the United States.

In the brainstem, serotonin helps regulate some of the body's involuntary actions, such as breathing, heart rate and blood pressure during sleep. The researchers, led by Children's neuropathologist Hannah Kinney, MD, believe that a low serotonin level impairs the function of the brainstem circuits that regulate these activities, putting a baby at risk for sudden death from stresses such as rebreathing carbon dioxide when sleeping in the face down position.

The future goal of this work is to devise a test to identify infants with a serotonin brainstem defect early, and to develop preventive treatments that would correct the serotonin deficiency.

While this study provides strong evidence for a biological cause of SIDS, it also shows that other risk factors, such as sleeping on one's stomach, can aggravate the risk. Of the SIDS infants in the current study, 95 percent died with at least one risk factor, and 88 percent died with at least two.

The next step in this research is to find out what causes abnormally low serotonin levels in the first place. Genetic variations may be partly responsible, says neuroscientist David Paterson, PhD, in Kinney's lab, a contributing author of the paper. Kinney's lab is searching for such variations. The CJ Foundation is also providing a grant to support Dr. Paterson's work.

"What is also of significance", notes Linda Tantawi, "is that by showing a presence of a SIDS risk factor in 95% of all cases in this study, this research underscores the need for parents and caregivers to be ever vigilant in implementing all safe sleep/SIDS risk-reduction practices. For parents who suffered the loss of a baby, perhaps this study, by finding strong evidence of an underlying biological cause of SIDS will give them peace of mind as well as hope that one day we will truly eliminate SIDS."

*Source: CJ Foundation for SIDS, www.cjsids.com.

2010 International Conference on Perinatal and Infant Death

Partners in Prevention, Advocacy, Research & Support

Presented by:
The Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Programs
& The Pregnancy Loss and Infant Death Alliance
www.asip1.org www.plida.org

November 4-7, 2010 . Washington, D.C.



"Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality."
- Abraham Lincoln



Reducing the Risk of SIDS in Childcare

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Healthy Child Care America recently announced the release of a new online module on Reducing the Risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in Child Care. Based off of the AAP Reducing the Risk of SIDS in Child Care Speakers Kit, this FREE course is designed to educate everyone who cares for babies, including child care providers, health care professionals, parents, grandparents, and relatives.

In 1 hour, participants will learn:

- The definition of SIDS
- To identify behaviors that increase the risk of SIDS
- How to explain common beliefs and misconceptions about SIDS
- The resources that can help caregivers reduce the risk of SIDS for infants in their care

With an easy to use format, this course is available 24/7 from your home or office computer. Child care providers will receive a certificate of completion for 1.0 contact hour. Health care professionals can also receive credit (see flyer for details).

For instructions on how to access this FREE course, visit www.healthychildcare.org/pdf/SIDSmoduleflyer.pdf.

For more information and materials on how to reduce the risk of SIDS, visit www.healthychildcare.org/sids.html.

*Source: American Academy of Pediatrics, www.healthychildcare.org.

Conference Recap



The 29th annual California SIDS Program fall conference kicked off on Monday, October 19, 2009 with a Welcome Reception at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sacramento, California. SIDS parents, relatives, professionals and para-professionals were invited to meet and mingle with others while getting acquainted with the California SIDS community. There, we met many other SIDS parents and enjoyed sharing stories and learning of the accomplishments of other SIDS-related organizations like ours. We also had the pleasure of meeting several members of the California SIDS Advisory Council, including Dr. Thomas Keens, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Physiology and Biophysics at the Childrens Hospital Los Angeles and Dr. Christina Stanley, Chief Deputy Medical Examiner, County of San Diego Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Tuesday morning began with a preview of conference displays and exhibits of SIDS and SUID informational and educational materials, promotional items, and grief/bereavement resources from a multitude of organizations, including Tiny Handprints!



From there, we entered the conference room for a SIDS Research Update presented by Dr. Thomas Keens. He discussed a current study underway at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) lead by Dr. Hannah Kinney concerning a possible biological link to SIDS – the results of which were released just a few weeks ago confirming a link between SIDS and low serotonin levels in the brain. At the time, we were merely hopeful that this research would actually lead to some more definite developments in SIDS research. We're excited to see that it has!



The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Darcie Sims, PhD, CGC, CHT, Grief and Bereavement Specialist. She is an internationally recognized speaker on the topics of grief and grief support and has a long list of experience and credentials in those areas. Her presentation entitled Grief: A Journey of Hope was enlightening,

educational and entertaining – it was simply exceptional! You can learn more about Dr. Sims and find grief/bereavement resources by visiting her website: www.griefinc.com.

Visit the News & Links page of our website for a link to other conference information, including a complete list of conference presenters and a grief information packet provided by Dr. Darcy Sims.

SIDS/SUID Webinars

ASIP and AMCHP Co-Sponsor Quarterly SIDS/SUID Webinars

In an ongoing effort to support State and Local Maternal and Child Health Programs, the Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Programs (ASIP) and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) are co-sponsoring a series of quarterly webinars to strengthen SUID, SIDS, Infant Safe Sleep and bereavement services across the U.S.

This is a time of change in our understanding of SUID and SIDS. Professionals are challenged by the diagnostic shift and continuing disparity in black and white infant death rates. The controversy about infant sleep environments and health education messages confounds the issue.

These live, interactive webinars will provide participants with consistent, current information, data, resources and tools regarding SUID, SIDS, Infant Safe Sleep, and bereavement. You will hear about the latest research, new national initiatives, promising practices, and current policy and legislative activities.

The first webinar was held on February 11, 2010 and featured two internationally recognized experts on SIDS and SUID, Dr. Marian Willinger and Dr. Rachel Moon. Dr. Willinger is Health Science Administrator and special assistant for SIDS at the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development where her responsibilities include direction of the Institute's SIDS research program. Her presentation concerned Advances in SIDS Research. Dr. Moon is Director, Academic Development for the Goldberg Center for Community Pediatric Health at Children's National Medical Center and Professor of Pediatrics at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She was recently appointed Chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Task Force on Infant Positioning and SIDS. Dr. Moon presented SIDS and SUID: Celebrating Successes and Confronting New Challenges.

There is no charge for the webinars, but participants must register to participate in the live webinars. Presentations will be archived on the websites on the National SUID Resource Center, www.sidscenter.org and AMCHP, www.amchp.org.

Webinars will also be held in April, June and September. Visit our website for dates and a link to register for upcoming webinars.

About AMCHP

AMCHP represents state public health leaders promoting the health of America's families through support for state maternal and child health programs, including service for children and youth with special health care needs.

About ASIP

ASIP is a national organization that establishes and promotes policy and practice for professionals who respond to infant and child death, and is committed to bereavement support, risk reduction and prevention services.

*Source: Association of SIDS and Infant Mortality Programs, www.asip1.org.