



PRE-BIRTH - Things to consider

Child Developmental Needs:

- Unknown information about the unborn baby's development due to concealed pregnancy or resistance to health advice
- Unborn baby's physical, mental or emotional development is at risk due to parental drug / alcohol use or domestic abuse

Parenting Capacity:

- Preparations that have been made for their baby's arrival
- Safety of sleeping practices, e.g. unsafe co-sleeping or inappropriate sleeping area
- Understanding of safe handling of their baby e.g. choking risk if bottle left in the mouth, left in car seat for prolonged period of time
- Parent's understanding and ability to prioritise the needs of their baby, for example responding to feeding cues, sterilizing bottles, nappy changing and hygiene needs
- Parental mental and emotional health and wellbeing, consider ability to cope with demands of caring for a newborn

Family and Environmental Factors:

- Capacity of support network to offer help during pregnancy and beyond
- Suitability of housing for a newborn child
- Stability and strength of the relationship between parents
- Experience of caring for other children, including any children's social care involvement and experiences of step parenting



Somerset Safeguarding
Children Partnership

Things that can help:

- Strength of bond with the baby
- Willingness to accept support
- Wider support network
- Willingness to make any necessary lifestyle changes and follow any safety plans, e.g. changes to drug use
- Opportunity for coordinated support for Team around the Family and availability of targeted support
- Positive experiences of caring for other children

USEFUL RESOURCES:

[Pre-Birth Planning Toolkit](#)

[SSCP Pre-Birth & Early Years Resources](#)

[SSCP Non-Accidental Injury](#)

[The FOREST Programme](#)

[ICON - Advice for Professionals](#)