



## FACT SHEET SAFE BABIES PROGRAM

### **What is the Safe Babies Program?**

The Safe Babies Program was developed in Victoria (1998) by Lenora Marcellus, in partnership with Capital Regional Health and the Ministry for Children and Families. The program was introduced in response to the increasing need for highly-skilled caregivers who could be trained specifically in meeting the special needs of infants prenatally exposed to alcohol and other drugs.

The Safe Babies Program was introduced in the Central and Upper Island Regions in 2000. In the Vancouver Island Region, the Safe Babies Program, administered by the FPSS Foster Parent Support Services Society, continues to provide education and support to Foster Parents, Social Workers and Community Partners who work with substance-exposed infants and their caregivers.

### **What topics does Safe Babies Training Program address?**

Understanding the impact of substance misuse during pregnancy • The effects of alcohol and other drugs on the body • Acute withdrawal in the newborn • Neuro-developmental support of the substance exposed infant • Health issues for the substance exposed infant • Partnership with natural families • Care for the Caregiver.

The Safe Babies Program is committed to providing relevant support, training and consultation to Caregivers, Social Workers and Community Partners in the South, Central, and Upper Vancouver Island Areas.

### **What support IS AVAILABLE?**

The Safe Babies Program Liaison will provide pre-placement consultation to new Safe Babies caregivers as required and provide ongoing telephone consultation to existing Safe Babies caregivers. Safe Babies caregivers will be contacted regarding current information and Regional training opportunities pertaining to substance-exposed infants and their families.

### **What on-going training is available?**

The Safe Babies Program will continue to offer the intensive Safe Babies Training in each area as indicated by the level of need and interest and available funding. Ongoing educational opportunities will be provided to Safe Babies Caregivers and Social Workers. The Safe Babies Program Liaison will maintain current information regarding prenatal substance exposure and related issues.

### **How do I become a Safe Babies Caregiver?**

If you would like to become a Safe Babies Caregiver, speak to your Resource Worker. Safe Baby homes have special requirements in addition to those of regular foster homes.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Contact the FPSS Regional Office at  
**1-888-922-8437** or [admin@fpsss.com](mailto:admin@fpsss.com).

South Island Safe Baby Coordinator Dianne Thompson 778-430-5459

Central Island Safe Baby Coordinator

Upper Island Safe Baby Coordinator Catherine McCaully 1-888-922-8437