

Rapid Reviews: Baby JW



Background

- Baby JW was a healthy baby who was meeting their developmental milestones.
- They lived with their Mum, Dad and siblings and were well cared for.
- Professionals witnessed positive interactions between parents and Baby JW.
- Professionals were aware that parents had co-slept with older siblings but were unaware that they were co-sleeping with Baby JW.
- Baby JW died whilst co-sleeping with mum whilst staying away from their home and were out of their usual routine.
- Mum was under the influence of drugs and alcohol at the time of death.
- Both parents were reported to be occasional drug users, though this wasn't known by most of the professionals who knew the family.
- Mum had been spoken to regarding the risks of co-sleeping by health professionals and provided other information with regards to keeping babies safe.

Learning

- Dad had mentioned cocaine use to his GP, however, this had not been shared with other professionals, such as health visitors and midwives. This would be expected practice.
- Conversations regarding risks linked to co-sleeping could have also included exploring how parents would respond to real life situations, such as being out of routine or intoxicated.
- Conversations regarding co-sleeping could have been more robust.
- Information regarding co-sleeping and other information relating to the safety of babies should also be shared with fathers. Services struggle to engage fathers and male care givers: [Myth of Invisible Men](#).
- Risk of Sudden Unexplained Death in Infancy (SUDI) is increased by co-sleeping, and further increased when sleeping arrangements are [Out of Routine](#).
- Local resources regarding the risk of co-sleeping have been developed and can be accessed here [Stay Close, Sleep Apart](#).

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