Let's Talk – Responsive Conversation Practice

This sample script can be used to model a responsive conversation. It is important to respect the culture and experiences of parents and caregivers in your community. To further train participants in lived experience and responsive conversations, consider partnering with local support groups or parents your organization has served. Asking them to participate in your training to provide guidance on the script you create helps make sure you are meeting community needs.

Safe sleep champions are located throughout the community. The following sample script includes a community housing specialist who has just met a new member to the housing community.

Tools used: Community Resource List and Safe Sleep Infographic

Housing Specialist: Hi Michelle. After our phone calls this week to get all the information completed to secure your spot here in our living community, it's finally nice to meet you in person. And I see that congratulations are in order! How are you feeling about bringing your new baby home?

New Mom: Well, I'm a little nervous, everyone tells me that I will be tired- not much sleep for the first few weeks, but that it will be wonderful. I haven't been around babies much, so it is a little hard to picture it all.

Housing Specialist: Yes, a new baby is wonderful and really changes your life. But there is information available to help you develop a plan that can help you better adjust to these changes. *What are your biggest concerns about bringing your baby home?*

New Mom: Well, I have started some planning- I have my baby's crib but am trying to decide about where to put that. I'm a single mom, so I'm a little concerned about having reliable transportation to and from the doctor. I'm also thinking about breastfeeding, but I've not had a lot of my friends be successful with that. It's a lot to think about.

[Housing Specialist pauses conversation to speak with the audience of Community Educators to share that if the parent/caregiver lists several things they are concerned about, try to triage one topic to address and provide resources for as many of the needs identified]

dshs.texas.gov/SafeInfantSleep

Housing Specialist: Ok, yeah, what I'm hearing you say is that there are a lot of things you have to make decisions about and that can be tough. I'm glad you have your crib, that's a great start. I have information that I share with new families that can connect you with community resources and programs to help address a few of the things you mentioned. For example, with breastfeeding, the community WIC program has lactation consultants and breastfeeding counselors, they also have community breastfeeding classes you can take.

New Mom: Ok, great. I'd love some more information on breastfeeding.

Housing Specialist: With regards to your crib, has anyone talked with you about how to create a safe sleep space for your baby?

New Mom: I don't think so. I know that babies are supposed to be placed on their back to sleep, right? What else can I do to keep my baby sleeping safely?

[Housing Specialist uses safe sleep infographic and LTSIS Community Resource List]

Housing Specialist: This sheet helps show what a safe sleep environment looks like. And yes, placing baby on their back for every sleep, including naps, is at the top of the list of these steps you can take- along with breastfeeding- which provides protection for your baby from SIDS.

You can share this information with anyone caring for your baby so that no matter where the baby is sleeping, they can be safe. Here's the Community Resource list with information on WIC and other programs. After you've had a chance to look this over, don't hesitate to reach out with any additional questions. I am happy to chat with you again or point you in the direction to those in our community that can help. How does that sound?

New Mom: That sounds great. Thank you for sharing this with me. I already feel a little better.

Housing Specialist: Oh, great! I'm glad to hear that, Michelle.