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15th November 2022

Deputy Cairns,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 53586/22: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide details of any policies issued by his Department or public bodies under his remit that refer to the importance of the bond between an infant and their parents, especially their mother, in the first six months after birth.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Advice on caring for babies and children, including guides on feeding, sleeping and common health conditions can be found on the HSE's website as well as the My Pregnancy and My Child publications which can be found at the following links:

<https://www2.hse.ie/babies-children/>

https://www2.hse.ie/documents/63/HSE_My_Pregnancy_book.pdf

https://assets.hse.ie/media/documents/My_Child_0_to_2_years_book_QIxabfB.pdf?_gl=1*17c0039*_ga*MjA1MjY2NDY5Mi4xNjE3MjgwNDA0*_ga_5G1S3MW2ZK*MTY2ODUyNTUxMi40Ny4xLjE2Njg1MjgyOTMuMC4wLjA

The My Pregnancy book is filled with expert advice from health professionals in the HSE, including doctors, midwives, nurses, physiotherapists, dietitians, psychologists and many more.

The My Child book is provided to all new parents by their public health nurse at the first home visit after a baby is born. 'My Child: 0 to 2 years' is filled with expert advice from health professionals in the HSE; like doctors, nurses, psychologists, parenting experts, dietitians and many more.

These books aim to give parents the best advice on caring for their baby and child.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

M. Jo

Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme