

## **SIDS Resources Position Statement on Use of Baby Boxes**

In an effort to clarify the role a Baby Box might play in the Safe Sleep Environment, SIDS Resources maintains that Baby Boxes are not safe to be used for infant sleep.

SIDS Resources details the following concerns:

- Boxes might be placed on an unstable surface
- The boxes come with lids, and a well-intentioned toddler/sibling may place the lid on the box
- The box has the potential to tip if a baby begins to be an active roller
- The box comes with instructions about keeping away from open flame...what about space heaters?
- The box also comes with instructions that the box should not get wet or be used in higher humidity areas...what baby does not have an occasional soiled diaper overflow while sleeping? High humidity can compromise the sturdiness of the already fragile cardboard box.
- How does one clean the box once it is soiled?
- Baby can only sleep in box until between the ages of 2 – 4 months; alternatively, a pack-n-play provides a comfortable and safe environment up to one year of age and beyond.
- The age during which a baby transitions out of the box is the peak age for SIDS; if an alternate safe sleep environment is not available, a baby may be moving into an unsafe place for sleep during the highest risk for SIDS
- The COST difference between a box and a Pack-n-Play is minimal (less than \$20.00).
- The proponents of the boxes point to the use in Finland, without examining other factors (such as a year of paid maternity leave) which may lead to a lower infant mortality rate.