



NCC Pediatrics Continuity Clinic Curriculum: Sleep Disorders *Faculty Guide*



Goals & Objectives:

To learn how to identify and treat sleep disorders in children and adolescents:

- Obtain a complete and accurate sleep history
- Distinguish between normal sleep patterns and sleep disorders
- Provide parents with interventions to deal with sleep disorders

Pre-Meeting Preparation:

Please read the following enclosures:

- “Normal Sleep Patterns”
 - “General Principles of Sleep” (*figure- PIR, Oct 2001*)
- “Diagnosis & Management of Common Sleep Problems” (*PIR, 2011*)
 - “Difficulty Falling Asleep by Age” (*figures- PIR, Oct 2001*)
- **Do your own BEARS screen:** Score yourself (use the adolescent scale ☺), your child, or your patient. +1 pt for every positive answer.



Conference Agenda:

- **Discuss Sleep Disorders Self-Reflection Q's**
- Review Sleep Disorders Quiz and "Name that Sleep Product"
- Complete Sleep Disorders Mini-Cases

Post-Conference: Board Review Q&A

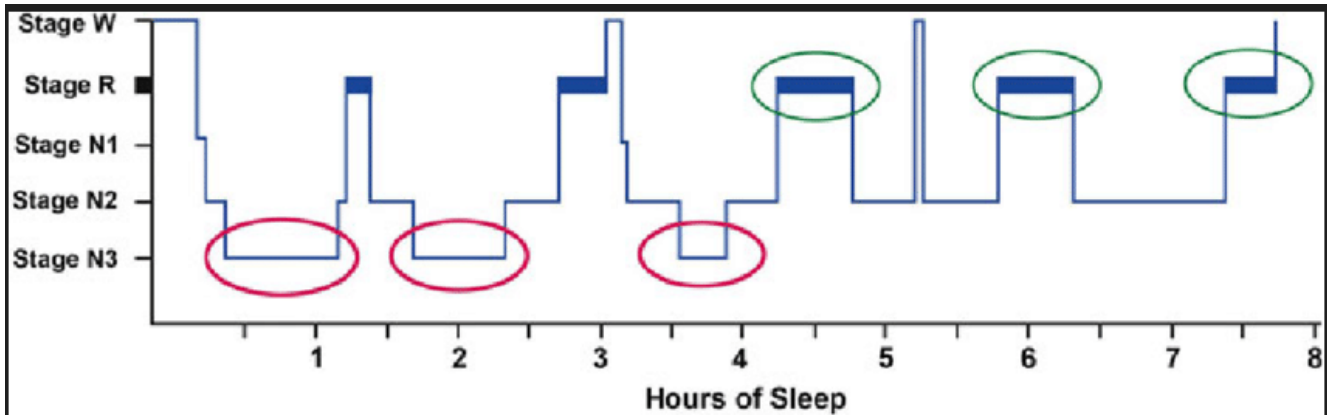
Extra Credit:

- [American Academy of Sleep Medicine Practice Parameters](#) (*includes links for behavioral treatment of bedtime problems & indications for polysomnography*)
- [SIDS Practice Parameter](#) (*AAP, Oct 2011*)
- [“Prevalence, Patterns, and Persistence of Sleep Problems in the 1st 3 years”](#) (*Peds, 2012*)
- [The Ferber Method Demystified](#) (*parent resource*)
- [Healthychildren.org](#) (*parent resource for infant & toddler sleep issues*)
- Review articles from **AAFP** and **Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine**
- "Sleep-Disordered Breathing in Children" (*PIR, 2019*)
- "Long term melatonin. . .children with neurodevelopmental disorders" (*BMC Psychiatry, 2020*)
- "Effect of melatonin in children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and sleep disorders" (*J of Family Medicine and Primary Care, 2022*)
- "Even dim light before bedtime may disrupt a preschooler's sleep" (*Science Daily, 2022, U of CO*)

Normal Sleep

Stages of Sleep Cycle

There are 2 basic types of sleep: **REM** (rapid eye movement)—the active sleep when dreams take place, and **non-REM** or quiet sleep, which is subdivided into **3 stages**. Each stage is marked by changes in brain waves (EEG), muscle activity, eye movements, heart function, and breathing. Alternating cycles of non-REM and REM sleep make up the sleep stages that occur throughout the night. Every person will have stage changes and transient awakenings throughout the night. These are usually so short that the person may believe they did not awaken at all. The first half of the night tends to have a predominance of NREM sleep. The second half of the night is richer in REM sleep.



* **Stage I:** Brief period (up to 5min) of transition from drowsiness to sleep. Brain activity slows and the eyelids close, although the eyes continue to move together slowly beneath the closed lids. A person is easily awakened from this stage. Sometimes, the person may be aware that she is nodding off; some other times she may think that she is day-dreaming.

* **Stage II:** Light sleep; lasts from 10-46min. The brain waves may change with the appearance of vertex and **K-complexes** (large, slow waves interspersed with bursts of rapid waves called **sleep spindles**). There is some data suggestive that sleep

* **Stage III:** Deepest and usually most refreshing stage of sleep. There is further slowing of the brain waves, and breathing and heartbeat become slow and regular. The muscles relax, and the person lies very still; although, there may be some involuntary twitching of the leg. Snoring may also occur. The person is not easily awakened, and if aroused, may take at least a few minutes so to become fully awake. This is when parasomnias such as sleep walking and night terrors are most likely to occur. Characterized by high amplitude "**slow-wave sleep**" (**SWS**) based on EEG patterns— last up to 60min. Then, there is a gradual return to a lighter stage of sleep.

* **REM Sleep:** Occurs after 1-2 complete cycles of Stage I-III sleep. Referred to as “**active sleep**”, during which most dreams occur. The eyes move rapidly under the closed eyelids, breathing and heart rate become less regular, and muscles are more relaxed, although twitching may increase. The *first* periods of REM sleep during the night usually last for only a few minutes; as the night goes on, REM sleep *lengthens*. This is why many people awaken in the morning while dreaming, and may feel as though the entire night had been spent dreaming.

Other Key Points:

- * There are periods of wakefulness between each sleep cycle (stages I-III + REM). The sleeper usually forgets these arousals because of **anterograde and retrograde amnesia** that occurs after sleep onset.
- * The relative volume of each of these stages varies both with age and over the course of the night.
- * **SWS** predominates during the 1st few cycles of the night, and **REM** predominates in the final cycles.
- * There is a physiologic need for *both* REM and SWS. Children and adults who are **sleep-deprived**—whether total or stage-selective—tend to make them up on subsequent nights. “Sleep intrusions” in the forms of **micro-sleep**— EEG-identifiable sleep lasting $\geq 30s$ —are inevitable with sleep deprivation.

Sleep Cycle by Age

| Age | Average Sleep Duration in a 24-h Period | Sleep Patterns |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Newborns | 16 to 20 h | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1- to 4-h sleep periods followed by 1- to 2-h awake periods • Amount of daytime sleep=amount of nighttime sleep |
| Infants (0 to 1 y) | 14 to 15 h at 4 mo 13 to 14 h at 6 mo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleep periods of 3 to 4 h for first 3 mo • 6- to 8-h periods at 4 to 6 mo • Day/night differentiation develops between 6 wk and 3 mo • 70% to 80% of babies “settle” (sleep through the night at 9 mo of age) • Naps 2 to 4 h in two naps per day |
| Toddlers (1 to 3 y) | 12 h | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naps 1.5 to 3.5 h in one nap per day |
| Preschool (3 to 6 y) | 11 to 12 h | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Napping declines; most stop by 5 y of age |
| Middle Childhood (6 to 12 y) | 10 to 11 h | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low levels of daytime sleepiness |
| Adolescence (> 12 y) | 9 h | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often irregular sleep schedule • Circadian phase delay postpuberty with later bedtimes and later rise times |

Used with permission from Mindell JA, Owens JA. *A Clinical Guide to Pediatric Sleep, Diagnosis and Management of Sleep Problems*. Philadelphia, Pa: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins; 2003.

Newborn: Sleep **16-20hrs/day**, broken up into **1-4hr sleep periods** and 1-2hr awake periods. They cycle through REM and non-REM sleep **every 50min** vs. 90min cycle for older children/adults.

During **REM** sleep, the infant may twitch or flail her arms or legs, and her eyes may move under her thin eyelids. Breathing may be somewhat irregular and she may smile or make sucking motions with her mouth. This behavior may lead parents to believe that their baby is not having restful sleep. During **non-REM** sleep, as in adults, breathing is more regular and the baby will not move as much, although she may occasionally twitch or make a sudden movement. At first, sleep is about evenly distributed between REM and non-REM sleep; this falls to a ratio of 25:75 in an older child or adult.

Based on level of arousal, newborn behavior has been divided into **6 clusters**—two of which are sleep states. Some parents may require help distinguishing active sleep from wakefulness. Active sleep occurs every 50min during a sleep cycle,

| State | Description | What Your Baby Does |
|---------|--------------|--|
| State 1 | Deep Sleep | Lies quietly without moving |
| State 2 | Light Sleep | Moves while sleeping; startles at noises |
| State 3 | Drowsiness | Eyes start to close; may doze |
| State 4 | Quiet Alert | Eyes open wide, face is bright; body is quiet |
| State 5 | Active Alert | Face and body move actively |
| State 6 | Crying | Cries, screams; body moves in very disorganized ways |

with an arousal—but not true awakening—at the end of every cycle. Although most newborns return immediately to sleep, some parents see the arousal and immediately pick up the baby, creating a true awakening. *If parents rush to check or feed the infant at every rustle or moan made during active sleep, or every arousal between sleep cycles, the development of sustained sleep is then delayed.*

2-4 months: Sleep becomes more consolidated and a **preference for nighttime** begins to develop. Remember, though, that every baby is different; therefore, at 2mo some are sleeping for 5-6hrs at night while others are still waking up and wanting to be fed every 2-3hrs. *Parents should not introduce solid foods too early in the hopes that it will get their baby to sleep through the night.*

The more consolidated sleep pattern comes about, in part, thanks to behavioral cues from the parents who encourage the baby to play more during the daytime waking periods. By contrast, *nighttime waking should be kept calm, quiet, and no longer than necessary to change, feed, and burp the baby and return him—comfortable, sleepy, but still awake—to his crib.* Many parents may complain of a 4-month sleep regression. This timeframe is usually characterized by infants having more ability, more advanced wake patterns and the ability to have more attentiveness to their environment. Parents can be counseled that this is normal and as long as interventions are kept minimal should improve within the next 2 months. Even as babies become more alert and playful, many continue to take **≥2 daily naps** for at least the first 6mo.

6-12 months: By the time the infant is 6mo, one can expect him to sleep for **11hrs at night** and to take 2 naps totaling 3-4hrs/day. For some lucky parents, the 11hrs will occasionally take place in a single stretch; *at this age, there is no need for an overnight feeding.* A longitudinal study of 104 infants aged 1-12mo found that 71% of kids “settled” (sleep from MDN to 0500) by 3mo of age; 83% “settled” by 6mo of age; and 10% never completely settled during the 1st year of life.

Sleep cycles now occur every 90-120 min, with nighttime arousals occurring at the end of every cycle. SWS predominates in the 1st half of the nighttime sleep and is a time when the arousal threshold is very high. REM sleep occupies the latter ¼ of the night. *Babies should now have the ability to self-soothe through the arousals and return immediately to sleep.* Gross motor milestones such as rolling over and pulling to stand can also disrupt sleep.

18 months – 4 years: Naps are usually consolidated into **1 regular nap per day.**

5 years- early school age: Napping typically stops. Children may reflexively want to nap if they didn’t sleep well in the previous night.

Adolescent: As people grow older, sleep patterns and circadian rhythms change. Many adolescents experience difficulty falling asleep and prefer to awaken late (i.e. “delayed sleep-phase syndrome”—see PIR article). This is not merely a result of teenage rebellion, but a reflection of altered melatonin release during puberty and young adulthood. A similar effect occurs in elderly people who experience the opposite—early to bed and early to rise, with daytime sleepiness.

Adult: Normal adult sleep is marked by recurring cycles of Stages III (SWS) or lighter stages of I & II sleep, followed by varying periods of REM sleep. **Each cycle lasts an average of 90 minutes,** although this varies from one person to another, and even from one night to the next.

Table 7. General Principles of Sleep

- Establish a good sleep environment that is dark and quiet and has a steady, slightly cool temperature. Sleep should be in the same place for night and naps as much as possible.
- Establish a soothing bedtime routine that involves friendly interaction between parent and child. This may include a snack, followed by tooth brushing, use of the toilet, several stories read to the child in his or her own bed, presence of "stovies" or favorite toys, prayers or a song, and the parent leaving the room while the child is still awake.
- Feed infants in the parent's arms and place them in the crib without a bottle.
- Put a child to bed when the child is tired to get enough sleep and to avoid resistance if the child is put in bed when not sleepy.
- Teach the child the skill of falling asleep on his or her own by avoiding pacifiers or body contact with the parent as the child drifts into sleep. This makes it possible *for* the child to go back to sleep independently when awakening during the night.
- Avoid changing the routine because of demands or tantrums at bedtime, these can become regular problems.
- Avoid television in the child's room because it can delay sleep and become a habit needed to fall asleep.
- Try to keep bedtime naps, and morning wake-up at the same time 7 days a week to avoid shifting the child's internal clock. Naps should not be too close to bedtime so that the child will be sleepy. Avoid caffeine beverages or cigarette smoke very active play, television or movies, or arguments before bedtime. They stimulate the child and make falling asleep more difficult.

Diagnosis and Management of Common Sleep Problems in Children

Sumit Bhargava, MD*

Author Disclosure
Dr Bhargava has disclosed no financial relationships relevant to this article. This commentary does not contain a discussion of an unapproved/investigative use of a commercial product/device.

Objectives After completing this article, readers should be able to:

1. Discuss the wide prevalence of sleep problems in children.
2. Recognize and manage common sleep problems in children.
3. Know the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines for diagnosis and management of obstructive sleep apnea in children.

Introduction

Sleep plays a vital and often underestimated role in the growth and development of children. Community surveys have discovered that sleep problems have a high prevalence throughout childhood and adolescence, with 25% to 50% of preschoolers and up to 40% of adolescents experiencing sleep-related problems. (1) Disruption of sleep due to a variety of sleep disorders may affect cognitive development and growth, and the child's sleep problems may become a significant family stressor. Studies have shown that sleep issues are usually not addressed adequately in pediatric practice. (2) This article describes the features of common sleep disorders that present to the pediatrician and provides strategies for effective management.

Sleep in Infancy, Childhood, and Adolescence

Sleep architecture, sleep behaviors, and sleep problems change as children progress from infancy to adolescence. The ability to sleep through the night usually does not develop until at least 3 to 6 months of age. Sleep duration also varies by age (Table 1). Insufficient sleep and poor sleep quality may manifest as changes in mood, behavior, memory, and attention. Parents are usually quick to recognize any changes in their child's behavior and mood, and these observations should be ascertained during history taking. Younger children may develop symptoms of hyperactivity, poor impulse control, and neurocognitive dysfunction that includes attentional problems and impaired vigilance. Adolescents who are not getting sufficient sleep may have symptoms of excessive daytime sleepiness, such as falling asleep on the bus on the way to school or during class or not being able to wake up on time for school. It is important to keep in mind the substantial individual variation in the need for sleep as well as in the effects of sleep loss on daytime function in children. Therefore, advice for the optimal duration of sleep may vary from child to child. Optimal duration of sleep may best be estimated during vacation time, when sleep duration can be correlated with mood and daytime functioning.

Approach to Pediatric Sleep Disorders

Pediatricians should screen for and recognize the symptoms of childhood sleep disorders in well children and specific vulnerable populations, such as children who have behavioral and developmental disorders, genetic syndromes, and chronic medical conditions. A screening tool (BEARS) (Table 2) has been developed to allow for comprehensive screening for the major sleep disorders in the pediatric age group. This screening tool has been shown to increase the likelihood of identifying sleep problems in the primary care setting. (3) It is divided into five major sleep domains, each with appropriate trigger questions: B: Bedtime problems, E: Excessive daytime sleepiness, A: Awakenings during the night, R: Regularity and duration of sleep, S: Snoring.

*Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Section of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT.

Table 1. **Appropriate Duration of Sleep by Age**

| Age Category | Average Sleep Duration (Over a 24-hour Period) |
|--|--|
| Newborns | 16 to 20 hours |
| Infants (0 to 1 year) | 13 to 15 hours |
| Toddlers and Preschool Children (2 to 5 years) | 11 to 12 hours total |
| School-age Children (6 to 12 years) | 10 to 11 hours |
| Adolescents (13 to 18 years) | 9 hours ideal |

Used with permission from Mindell JA, Owens JA. *A Clinical Guide to Pediatric Sleep: Diagnosis and Management of Sleep Problems*. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2003.

Diagnosis and Management of Common Pediatric Sleep Problems

Insomnia: Behavioral Insomnia of Childhood

The essential diagnostic feature of this disorder is difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep, or both that is related to an identified behavioral abnormality (Table 3). Because children do not usually sleep through the night for the first 3 to 6 postnatal months, this diagnosis usually is made in toddlers and preschoolers. Behavioral insomnia of childhood can affect parental sleep and may lead to significant daytime impairment of the parents. Marital disputes may arise, and parents may develop negative feelings toward a child who repeatedly disrupts their sleep. The sleep difficulties of behavioral insomnia of childhood are due either to inappropriate sleep associations or to inadequate limit setting by the caregiver.

SLEEP-ONSET ASSOCIATION TYPE. This disorder presents typically as frequent night awakenings, with the child depending on a specific stimulus from the care-

Table 2. **BEARS Screening Tool**

| | Toddler/Preschool (2 to 5 years) | School Age (6 to 12 years) | Adolescent (13 to 18 years) |
|--|--|--|---|
| <u>B</u> edtime Problems | Does your child have any problems going to bed or falling asleep? | Does your child have any problems at bedtime? (P) Do you have any problems going to bed? (C) | Do you have any problems falling asleep at bedtime (C)? |
| <u>E</u> xcessive daytime sleepiness | Is your child sleepy during the day or still taking naps? | Does your child have difficulty waking, seem sleepy during the day, or take a nap? (P) Do you feel tired a lot? (C) | Do you feel sleepy a lot during the day, in school, or while driving? (C) |
| <u>A</u> wakenings during the night | Does your child wake up a lot at night? | Does your child wake up a lot at night? (P) Do you wake up a lot at night and have trouble falling back asleep? (C) | Do you wake up a lot at night and have trouble falling back asleep? (C) |
| <u>R</u> egularity and duration of sleep | Does your child have a regular bedtime and wake time? | What time does your child go to bed and get up on weekdays/weekends? (P) Do you think your child gets enough sleep? (P) | What time do you go to bed on school days/weekends? How much sleep do you usually get? (C) |
| <u>S</u> nororing | Does your child snore a lot or have difficulty breathing at night? | Does your child have loud or nightly snoring or difficulty breathing at night? (P) | Does your child snore loudly or nightly? (P) |

(C)=child, (P)=parent
Used with permission from Mindell JA, Owens JA. *A Clinical Guide to Pediatric Sleep, Diagnosis and Management of Sleep Problems*. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2003.

Table 3. Diagnostic Criteria of Behavioral Insomnia of Childhood

- A. The child's symptoms meet the criteria for insomnia based upon parental report or that of other caregivers.**
-
- B. The child shows a pattern consistent with either the sleep-onset association or limit-setting type of insomnia described below:**
-
- i. Sleep-onset association type includes each of the following:**
1. Falling asleep is an extended process that requires special conditions.
 2. Sleep-onset associations are highly problematic or demanding.
 3. In the absence of the associated conditions, sleep onset is significantly delayed, or sleep is otherwise disrupted.
 4. Nighttime awakenings require caregiver intervention for the child to return to sleep.
- ii. Limit-setting type includes each of the following:**
1. The individual has difficulty initiating or maintaining sleep.
 2. The individual stalls or refuses to go to bed or refuses to return to bed following a nighttime awakening.
 3. The caregiver demonstrates insufficient or inappropriate limit setting to establish appropriate sleeping behavior in the child.
- C. The sleep disturbance is not explained by another sleep disorder, medical or neurologic disorder, mental disorder, or medication use.**
-

Used with permission from American Academy of Sleep Medicine. *The International Classification of Sleep Disorders, 2nd Ed: Diagnostic and Coding Manual*. Westchester, IL: American Academy of Sleep Medicine; 2005

giver to fall back to sleep. Such stimuli may include being held or rocked to sleep or needing a specific object or a particular environment to fall asleep. Sleep-onset associations are widely prevalent in young children, and this phenomenon is defined as a disorder if sleep is significantly delayed or repeatedly disrupted in the absence of the desired stimulation, with intervention by the caregiver required to restore sleep.

Night wakings are a common phenomenon in young children, with a prevalence of 25% to 50% in the first postnatal year. Night wakings may be associated with cosleeping, breastfeeding, or other medical conditions

and other sleep-disrupting events. In toddlers, separation anxiety may manifest as increased night waking. Problematic night wakings may also be fostered by the child's temperament and poor parent-child interactions.

Management focuses on the establishment of a regular sleep schedule and bedtime routine. It is crucial for a successful treatment plan to be tailored specifically to the needs of the child and family. Parents should be advised to have a developmentally appropriate bedtime and a consistent bedtime routine that allows the child to obtain adequate sleep. A sleep-deprived child has more night wakings. The bedroom should be dark, cool, and quiet because this is the most conducive environment for sleep. It should be stressed to parents to put the child to bed drowsy but awake. The goal is to allow the child to learn to "self-soothe" and fall asleep easily after a night waking. Self-soothing at bedtime has been shown to generalize to other night wakings within 2 weeks. The behavioral approaches of extinction and fading can be discussed with parents as methods to teach their child to fall asleep independently. These techniques have been proven to be effective interventions for behavioral insomnia. (4)

Extinction involves putting the child to bed and systematically ignoring him or her until the next morning. This approach may not be acceptable to many families because parents may be concerned about the impact of this intervention on their child's emotional development. Graduated extinction may be more acceptable. In this method, the child is put to bed drowsy but awake, and the parents check on the child in progressively increasing intervals. On each night, the initial waiting period is increased by 5 to 10 minutes. The specific waiting period varies for each family and is dependent on the child's and the parents' tolerance for crying. To help parents try this approach, they can be told that instituting extinction at bedtime soon generalizes to the rest of the night. Parents should also be prepared for the "extinction burst," which is a worsening of the behavior, usually occurring on the second night.

"Fading" of the adult intervention, which is an option to the extinction approach, involves establishing a clear plan for gradually decreasing parental involvement in the child's falling asleep. An "exit plan" can be designed, with the parents first instituting a regular bedtime and sleep schedule and then gradually decreasing direct contact with the child as he or she falls asleep. The goal for the plan is for the parent to "exit" the room and allow the child to fall asleep independently.

LIMIT-SETTING TYPE. Stalling or refusing to go to sleep characterizes limit-setting disorder (Table 3). The

toddler does not respond to parental requests to get ready for bed. Once in bed, there are frequent demands for parental attention, resulting in delayed sleep onset. When limits are enforced, sleep onset is not delayed. This type of insomnia is perpetuated when caregivers set few or no limits or enforce limits inconsistently and unpredictably. The insomnia also may be affected by the child's temperament, the sleeping environment (sharing a room with a sibling or other relative), or by an inherent circadian preference.

Limit-setting disorder typically presents after 2 years of age, when children are sleeping in a bed or are capable of climbing out of the crib. Bedtime resistance is common, occurring in up to 10% to 30% of toddlers and up to 15% of school-age children, and may coexist with night wakings.

Management of limit-setting disorder is similar to that for recurrent night wakings. As with night waking, it is important to have a consistent bedtime routine and a sleep schedule that allows the child to sleep an adequate number of hours. Parents should establish clear bedtime rules and put the child to bed drowsy but awake. It is crucial for both parents to be persistent and consistent in behavior modification, and both parents must participate equally. It is not reasonable to allow children to sleep in the parent's bed on weekends as a reward for sleeping in their own bed during the week. Bedtime "fading" may be helpful initially, with bedtime temporarily set at the current sleep-onset time and then gradually advanced to the desired bedtime. Children who leave their beds should be taken back to their bedrooms gently but firmly. Parents should be strongly encouraged to use positive reinforcement so the child's compliance with the bedtime plan is rewarded.

Circadian Rhythm Disorders: Delayed Sleep Phase Syndrome

Delayed sleep phase syndrome is a common disorder among adolescents and young adults, with a prevalence of 7% to 16%. The condition is characterized by habitual sleep/wake patterns that are delayed relative to conventional sleep times by 2 hours or more (Table 4). The essential issue with this disorder is the timing rather than the quality of sleep. Adolescents who have this disorder complain of sleep-onset insomnia and extreme difficulty waking in the morning. They make up for the short nighttime sleep period by afternoon naps or by extending sleep time on weekends. These behaviors serve to disrupt their circadian rhythm even more, and a vicious circle ensues.

Almost all individuals who have this disorder report

Table 4. Diagnostic Criteria: Circadian Rhythm Sleep Disorder, Delayed Sleep Phase Type

- A. There is a delay in the phase of the major sleep period in relation to the desired sleep time and wake-up time, as evidenced by a chronic or recurrent complaint of inability to fall asleep at a desired conventional clock time together with the inability to awaken at a desired and socially acceptable time.
- B. When allowed to choose their preferred schedule, patients will exhibit normal sleep quality and duration for age and maintain a delayed but stable phase of entrainment to the 24-h sleep/wake pattern.
- C. Sleep log or actigraphy monitoring (including sleep diary) for at least 7 days demonstrates a stable delay in the timing of the habitual sleep period. Note: In addition, a delay in the timing of other circadian rhythms, such as the nadir of the core body temperature rhythm or dim light melatonin onset (DLMO), is useful for confirmation of the delayed phase.
- D. The sleep disturbance is not explained by another sleep disorder, medical or neurologic disorder, medication use, or substance use disorder.

Used with permission from American Academy of Sleep Medicine. *The International Classification of Sleep Disorders, 2nd Ed: Diagnostic and Coding Manual*. Westchester, IL: American Academy of Sleep Medicine; 2005.

themselves to be evening types, with optimal functioning during afternoon, evening, and late evening. This natural predisposition is exaggerated by the normal phase delay in circadian rhythm of about 2 hours that occurs in adolescence. A positive family history is found in up to 40% of patients, and polymorphisms in the clock gene *per3* have been discovered in this disorder.

Exact pathophysiologic mechanisms remain unknown. Patients who have this disorder have an abnormal relationship between their endogenous circadian rhythm and the homeostatic process that regulates sleep and wakefulness.

Sleep logs are useful for demonstrating the habitually delayed sleep onset and late awakening. Afternoon naps may also be noted, as well as late rise times on weekends. Polysomnography is not routinely indicated for these patients unless they also have other symptoms of sleep-disordered breathing, such as snoring or apneas. Behavioral assessment is important because this syndrome may

be associated with depression, anxiety, school refusal, and school phobia.

The aim of treatment is to realign the sleep schedule to a more conventional and socially acceptable pattern and to maintain the realigned sleep schedule. Treatment involves improving sleep hygiene by avoiding naps and caffeinated beverages and decreasing bright light exposure in the evening. Therapy includes restricting television viewing in the late evening. Television sets and computers should be removed from the child's room and cell phones switched off. Other techniques such as chronotherapy or bright light therapy are best undertaken in consultation with a pediatric sleep medicine specialist. Successful outcomes are dependent on a highly motivated patient and family.

Maintenance of the sleep schedule is extremely important, and frequent relapses may occur. Any comorbid psychiatric issues must be addressed for the child to continue to maintain the new schedule successfully. Continued good sleep hygiene is essential. The patient may be allowed to sleep a little longer on weekends after a few months of strict compliance. However, weekend oversleep time should not extend more than 2 hours beyond the desired wake time. Close contact with the patient and the family during the maintenance phase is helpful in ensuring compliance with the sleep plan. This monitoring may be via telephone or regularly scheduled visits. Patients should be encouraged to continue to maintain a sleep log, so deviations from the sleep maintenance plan may be detected early.

Common Parasomnias of Childhood

Parasomnias are undesirable physical events that occur during entry into sleep, within sleep, or during arousal from sleep (Table 5). These are important clinical disorders of which the pediatrician should be aware because they occur commonly during childhood.

NIGHT TERRORS. Night terrors (*pavor nocturnus*) are arousals from deep (slow wave) sleep, usually in the first one third of the night and invariably accompanied by behavioral manifestations of intense fear. Tremendous autonomic system discharge occurs, with tachycardia, tachypnea, flushing of the skin, diaphoresis, and increased muscle tone. The child is found sitting up in bed and unresponsive; if awakened, the child is confused and disoriented. Vocalization occurs frequently. Amnesia for the episodes is usually the case when the child is questioned the next morning.

Prevalence rates vary from 1% to 6.5% in early childhood, with a relatively stable prevalence of 2.5% from the

Table 5. Diagnostic Criteria: Sleep Terrors and Nightmare Disorder

Night Terrors

- A. A sudden episode of terror occurs during sleep, usually initiated by a cry or loud scream that is accompanied by autonomic nervous system and behavioral manifestations of intense fear.
- B. At least one of the following associated features is present:
 - i. Difficulty in arousing the child.
 - ii. Mental confusion when awakened from an episode.
 - iii. Amnesia (complete or partial) for the episode.
 - iv. Dangerous or potentially dangerous behaviors.
- C. The disturbance is not explained by another sleep disorder, medical or neurologic disorder, mental disorder, medication use, or substance use disorder.

Nightmare Disorder

- A. Recurrent episodes of awakening from sleep with recall of an intensely disturbing dream, usually involving fear or anxiety, but also anger, sadness, disgust, and other dysphoric emotions.
- B. Full alertness on awakening, with little confusion or disorientation; recall of dream is immediate and clear.
- C. At least one of the following features is present:
 - i. Delayed return to sleep after the episode.
 - ii. Occurrence of episodes in the latter half of the habitual sleep period.

Used with permission from American Academy of Sleep Medicine. *The International Classification of Sleep Disorders, 2nd ed: Diagnostic and Coding Manual*. Westchester, IL: American Academy of Sleep Medicine; 2005.

age of 15 years onward. Night terrors are usually seen between 4 and 12 years of age. Genetics may play a role in night terrors. There is usually a family history of night terrors in one or both parents. There is no association of night terrors with psychopathology in young children. Night terrors also may be associated with sleep walking.

The diagnosis of night terrors is usually based on a typical history. History taking should focus on discovering if there is any sleep disorder that could result in disrupted sleep, such as obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), restless legs syndrome/periodic limb movement syndrome, or seizures. Polysomnography is not routinely indicated, although it may be helpful in distinguishing night terrors from nocturnal complex partial seizures or frontal lobe seizures. In addition, polysomnography can help to rule out OSA in a snoring child. OSA can lead to

recurrent arousals and shifts in sleep stage and may be associated with increased night terrors.

Management of night terrors is focused primarily on parental reassurance and education. Parents should be informed of the essentially self-limited nature of these episodes. Most children cease to have them after the onset of puberty due to the dramatic decrease in slow-wave sleep.

Scheduled awakening may be considered for the child who is having nightly episodes. In this approach, the parents identify the time of the episodes and wake the child to the point of arousal 15 to 30 minutes before that time. This can be done for 2 to 4 weeks, until the episodes stop occurring, and can be repeated if the episodes start again.

Short-acting benzodiazepines may be considered in the rare child who has frequent severe episodes that are excessively violent and place him or her at high risk of injury. Treatment can be considered for 3 to 6 months, until the episodes cease completely. Benzodiazepines should be slowly tapered because abrupt discontinuation results in slow-wave sleep rebound and a return of the nocturnal episodes.

NIGHTMARES. Nightmares are characterized by disturbing dreams that usually occur in rapid eye movement (REM) sleep in the latter half of the night and result in awakening. There is significant post-awakening anxiety and difficulty in returning to sleep. This symptomatology is especially common in younger children, who cannot distinguish between dreams and reality and may refuse to return to sleep.

Approximately 10% to 50% of children between the ages of 3 and 5 years experience nightmares severe enough to disturb their own and their parents' sleep. Nightmares can be precipitated by stress or traumatic events. They also are associated with sleep deprivation, anxiety disorders, and medications, including antidepressants, antihypertensive agents, and dopamine agonists. The proportion of children experiencing nightmares peaks between the ages of 6 and 10 years and subsequently declines.

Pediatricians should assess both the chronicity and severity of nightmares because unusual severity has been related to psychopathology. Nightmares can be distinguished from night terrors by their occurrence in the latter half of the night, when REM sleep predominates. Also, the child experiences no confusion or disorientation with nightmares and can recall the event. Finally, unlike night terrors, return to sleep is significantly delayed.

Management of nightmares focuses on maintaining good sleep hygiene. Exposure to frightening or overstimulating television shows and movies should be avoided before bedtime. Children may respond well to parental reassurance or the use of security objects such as blankets. A low-level night light may be helpful. For the child who is excessively disturbed by these events, referral to a developmental-behavioral pediatrician should be considered. Affected children respond well to relaxation strategies or systemic desensitization.

SLEEPWALKING. Sleepwalking consists of a series of complex behaviors that are related to arousal from slow-wave sleep and culminate in walking around with an altered state of consciousness and impaired judgment (Table 6). The sleepwalking child may appear confused, dazed, or occasionally agitated. The eyes are usually open during the episode. Children may perform bizarre acts, such as urinating in inappropriate locations or leaving the house.

About 15% to 40% of children sleepwalk at least once. The prevalence of frequent sleepwalking is low (3% to 5%). Peak occurrence is between 4 and 8 years of age, and there may be a family history of sleepwalking. Sleep deprivation, OSA, and a febrile illness may precipitate sleepwalking.

Diagnosis is made by the typical history. Polysomnography may be helpful if there are associated symptoms of

Table 6. Diagnostic Criteria: Sleepwalking

- A. Ambulation occurs during sleep.
- B. Persistence of sleep, an altered state of consciousness, or impaired judgment during ambulation is demonstrated by at least one of the following:
 - i. Difficulty in arousing the person.
 - ii. Mental confusion when awakened from an episode.
 - iii. Amnesia (complete or partial) about the episode.
 - iv. Routine behaviors that occur at inappropriate times.
 - v. Inappropriate or nonsensical behaviors.
 - vi. Dangerous or potentially dangerous behaviors.
- C. The disturbance is not explained by another sleep disorder, medical, or neurologic disorder, mental disorder, medication use, or substance use disorder.

Used with permission from American Academy of Sleep Medicine. *The International Classification of Sleep Disorders. 2nd ed. Diagnostic and Coding Manual.* Westchester, IL: American Academy of Sleep Medicine; 2005

snoring or restless sleep and typically shows arousal from deep sleep in the first half of the night.

Treatment is focused primarily on protecting the child from harm. The child's room should be in a safe location, not close to stairs. Alarms such as bells may be placed on the doorknob to alert parents to the child's waking. Parents should be reassured that there is no significant association between childhood sleepwalking and psychopathology. They should be encouraged to maintain good sleep hygiene, with a regular sleep/wake schedule. For the rare child who has nightly events or a history of injury, treatment with benzodiazepines may be considered for a period of 3 to 6 months, with slow tapering. Most sleepwalking episodes resolve by puberty with the age-related diminution in slow-wave sleep.

Sleep-related Breathing Disorders: Pediatric OSA

OSA is characterized by intermittent complete or partial obstruction of the upper airway that leads to obstructive apnea or hypopnea, which disrupts normal ventilation during sleep and may be associated with hypoventilation and oxyhemoglobin desaturation. OSA must be distinguished from primary snoring, which is snoring without associated obstructive events or gas exchange abnormalities.

The prevalence of this disorder has been reported to vary from 2% to 4% in healthy children. The disorder can occur at any age but is most common in the preschool age group (2 to 6 years) and adolescents. In prepubertal children, the disease occurs equally in boys and girls. A higher prevalence has been reported in African-American children. OSA appears to run in families, with a family history of the disorder usually being present. However, the relative role of genetic versus environmental factors has not yet been determined.

The exact pathophysiology of the disorder in children is unknown. It appears to result from a combination of upper airway narrowing and upper airway hypotonia. The primary predisposing factor for OSA in young children is adenotonsillar hypertrophy, although size of the tonsils and adenoids does not predict disease in individual patients. Obesity appears to be a risk factor in older children. In many children, both factors may be relevant. Other children at high risk of OSA include those born with craniofacial abnormalities, specifically midface hypoplasia and micrognathia, and associated hypotonia. Among these patients are children who have Down syndrome, neuromuscular disease, and cerebral palsy.

Early diagnosis and treatment of OSA is important because the untreated condition has been associated with

cor pulmonale, pulmonary hypertension, and systemic hypertension as well as poor learning, behavioral problems, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Typical of OSA is a history of loud nightly snoring with observed apnea spells. Parents may note that the child is a restless sleeper or that he or she sweats substantially while sleeping or sleeps in an abnormal position with the neck extended. Daytime symptoms can include chronic mouth breathing with chronic nasal congestion or morning headaches. Excessive daytime sleepiness is more common among older children. OSA may present with subtle neurobehavioral signs, including mood changes, ADHD-like symptoms involving inattention and easy distractibility, or academic problems due to difficulty concentrating. Findings on physical examination may include characteristic adenoidal facies as well as signs of atopy or nasal congestion such as "allergic shiners," nasal septal deviation, or enlarged turbinates. Oropharyngeal examination may reveal enlarged tonsils or a redundant soft palate with a long uvula. The rare child may present with cor pulmonale or systemic hypertension.

In April 2002, recognizing the significant impact of OSA on children, the American Academy of Pediatrics issued an evidence-based clinical practice guideline with recommendations for the diagnosis and management of OSA in children (Table 7). (5)

Table 7. Recommendations for the Diagnosis and Treatment of OSA (5)

1. All children should be screened for snoring.
2. Complex, high-risk patients should be referred to a specialist. These patients include infants and patients who have craniofacial disorders, genetic syndromes, neuromuscular disorders, chronic lung disease, sickle cell disease, and central hypoventilation syndromes.
3. Thorough diagnostic evaluation should be performed. History and physical examination cannot distinguish between primary snoring and OSA. Polysomnography is the diagnostic test of choice.
4. Adenotonsillectomy is the first line of therapy for most children. Continuous positive airway pressure is an option for those who are not surgical candidates or who respond poorly to surgery.
5. High-risk patients should be monitored as inpatients postoperatively.
6. Patients should be reevaluated postoperatively to determine if additional treatment is required. All patients should undergo clinical evaluation. High-risk patients should undergo polysomnography.

Summary

- Based on community surveys, sleep disorders in children are widely prevalent and preventable.
- Based on strong research evidence, behavioral treatment of insomnia of childhood is safe and effective.
- Based on strong research evidence, all children should be screened for snoring. Pediatricians are encouraged to follow evidence-based guidelines for diagnosis and management of OSA, as specified by the American Academy of Pediatrics in its clinical practice guideline.

References

1. Mindell JA, Owens JA. *A Clinical Guide to Pediatric Sleep: Diagnosis and Management of Sleep Problems*. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2003
2. Owens JA. The practice of pediatric sleep medicine: results of a community survey. *Pediatrics*. 2001;108:e51
3. Owens JA, Dalzell V. Use of the 'BEARS' sleep screening tool in a pediatric residents continuity clinic: a pilot study. *Sleep Med*. 2005;6:63–69
4. Morgenthaler TI, Owens J, Alessi C, et al. Practice parameters for the behavioral treatment of bedtime problems and night wakings in infants and young children. *Sleep*. 2006;29:1277–1281
5. American Academy of Pediatrics. Clinical practice guideline: diagnosis and management of childhood obstructive sleep apnea syndrome. *Pediatrics*. 2002;109:704–712

Suggested Reading

- American Academy of Sleep Medicine. *The International Classification of Sleep Disorders. 2nd Ed. Diagnostic and Coding Manual*. Westchester, IL: American Academy of Sleep Medicine; 2005
- Schechter MS; Section on Pediatric Pulmonology, Subcommittee on Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome. Technical report: diagnosis and management of childhood obstructive sleep apnea syndrome. *Pediatrics*. 2002;109:e69

HealthyChildren.org Parent Resources from AAP

<http://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/sleep/Pages/default.aspx>

Table 1. Difficulty Falling Asleep—Infants

| Type of Problem | Circumstances of Bedtime | Nap Routine | Relationship Factors | Treatment |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| Sleep Association (>2 mo) | Infant may be put to bed already asleep, in body contact with parent, with the bottle or pacifier | Falls asleep in body contact or with bottle or pacifier | Maternal depression, overresponsive parent, vulnerable child syndrome, inability to see/play with the child during the day | In bed alone and awake for night and naps |
| Hunger | Last feeding several hours before bedtime or infant needs more calories | | | Bedtime feeding |
| Circadian Rhythm Disorder (Phase Shift) | Infant is not tired; bedtime is too early | Long naps during the day or wakes from last nap after 4 PM | | Shorten naps, end nap earlier |

Table 2. Difficulty Falling Asleep—Preschool

| Type of Problem | Circumstances of Bedtime | Nap Routine | Relationship Factors | Treatment |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Sleep Association | Put to bed already asleep, in body contact, with bottle or pacifier, or with TV on | Falls asleep in body contact or with bottle or pacifier | Maternal depression, overresponsive parent, inability to see/play with child during the day | In bed alone and awake for night and naps |
| Circadian Rhythm Disorder (Phase Shift) | Toddler is not tired; bedtime is too early | Long naps or does not wake up until after 4 PM | | To bed when tired, then advance by 15 min per night, keeping appropriate wake-up time |
| Limit-setting | Lack of bedtime routine, parent gives in to "one more" plea by child | Often no nap routine | Inability to set limits, guilt | Set routine; enforce "one more time;" use ticket; one story if comes out, two if stays in; or hold door/turn off light briefly |
| Bedtime Fears | Can't distinguish reality, little reassurance from parent, frightening environment (eg, TV); may also feign fears. | | Inability to set limits, marital discord, exposure to media, chaotic household, family stresses, sexual/physical abuse | Evaluate and resolve stresses, establish soothing routine, use "monster spray" |

Table 3. Difficulty Falling Asleep—School-age and Adolescents

| Type of Problem | Circumstances of Bedtime | Nap Routine | Relationship Factors | Treatment |
|---|--|-------------------------|--|---|
| Sleep Association | Teen falls asleep with radio or TV on | | Lack of limit-setting | Negotiate use of media, depending on success in morning |
| Circadian Rhythm Disorder (Phase Shift) | Child is not tired; bedtime is too early, given phase shift | Daytime naps exacerbate | Lack of limit-setting, increased social responsibilities of child, child may avoid family or school obligations by staying up late and getting up late | Reset rhythm by delaying bedtime 1 h/d around the clock, keeping total sleep appropriate to desired hour, or advancing 15 min/d. Then maintain 7 d/wk. No naps. |
| Anxiety at Bedtime | Daytime stresses, asthma, obstructive sleep apnea, restless leg syndrome | | Daytime stresses, exposure to violent or frightening media, chaotic household, family stresses, sexual/physical abuse | Evaluate and treat possible medical and psychiatric causes and stresses |

Sleep Disorders Self-Reflection/ Quiz:

1. Do you routinely ask about sleep during well-child visits? If so, how do you ask (general questions? specific symptom questions?)? Do you ask at *every* well-child visit from birth to adolescence?
2. What was your/your child's/your patient's BEARS score? Was it what you expected?
3. After reading this module, will you change anything about your own/your child's sleep patterns? Will you change anything about how you screen your patients for sleep disorders?

4. Please complete the following table (*original from PIR, Dec 2006*):

| Common Pediatric Sleep Disorders | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Diagnoses | Usual Age Range of Presentation |
| Sleep Onset Association Disorder | First postnatal year |
| Limit-setting Disorder | All ages |
| Obstructive Sleep Apnea Disorder and Sleep-disordered Breathing | 2 to 5 y |
| Night Terrors and Other non-REM Parasomnias | 4 to 12 y |
| Inadequate Sleep Hygiene | All ages |
| Delayed Sleep Phase Syndrome | Adolescence |

5. **Flashback:** Which behavior modification techniques can be used to address **Sleep-onset Association Disorder** and/or **Limit-Setting Disorder**?
 - **Standard Extinction (Cry- It Out):** Systematically ignoring child until the next morning.
 - **Graduated Extinction:** Gradually decreasing parental involvement in the child's falling asleep (i.e. "exit plan")
 - **Bedtime Fading:** Moving bedtime back to child's usual sleep time; gradually advance bedtime.
 - **Positive reinforcement:** Reward child's compliance with bedtime routine.
6. **Delayed Sleep Phase Syndrome** is characterized by habitual sleep/wake patterns that are delayed relative to conventional sleep times by **≥2** hours.

7. Please complete the following table (*original from PIR, Dec 2006*):

| Table 3. Distinguishing Between Nightmares and Night Terrors | | |
|--|---|---|
| Distinguishing Factors | Nightmares | Night terrors |
| Memory for the event | Yes | No |
| Dreams | Yes | No |
| Stage of sleep | REM | Slow-wave sleep (stages 3 and 4) |
| Time of the night | Last 1/3 of night | First 1/3 of night |
| Requires parent for comfort | Yes | No |
| Family history | No | Yes |
| Common age range | All ages (peak between 3 and 6 y) | 4 to 12 y |
| Associated risk factors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleep deprivation (with resulting REM rebound) • Stress • Anxiety • Medications that increase REM • Withdrawal from REM-suppressing medications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleep deprivation (with resulting slow-wave sleep rebound) • Chronic pain (migraines, otitis media) • Sleep disordered breathing • Seizures • Limb movements • Environmental noise |

8. Untreated OSA has been associated with cor pulmonale, pulmonary hypertension, systemic hypertension, poor learning, behavioral problems, morning headaches, and ADHD.

Name That Sleep Product -- Safe or Unsafe?



A
SNOO Smart Sleeper (\$1295 or rent for \$3/day), created by Dr. Harvey Karp of *Happiest Baby on the Block* fame.



B
Doc-A-Tot (\$195-275), marketed as a baby lounger or co-sleeper.



C
Snuggle Me (\$128-156) like a Doc-A-Tot but with a center "sling," allowing the sides to come in and "hug" the baby.



D
Rock-N-Play (\$40 and up)
RECALLED in May 2019 after consumer reports identified 32 infants that died in this sleeper.



E
Merlin Sleep Suit (\$39.99)
Intended for babies too big to be swaddled, theoretical concern for overheating, interference with normal development due to restricted movement



F
Babocush (\$179.99) NOT intended for sleeping, but what are the chances that a baby that has this does not spend time sleeping in it?



G
Nap Nanny Infant Recliner --
RECALLED in 2014 after 6 infants died from suffocation in this device.

*****Review AAP policy statement for safe sleep and information about sleep products*****

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/sleep/Pages/A-Parents-Guide-to-Safe-Sleep.aspx>

Sleep Disorders Mini-Cases:

Take turns and complete as many cases as you can in the last 30 min of conference (cases are in chronologic order). Sleep training is often more of an art than a science, so the answer key leaves room for a variety of approaches—Share your own! (Residents—review the answer key after conference).

Case 1: My 6 week-old infant thrashes about and cries out when he sleeps. He continually hits himself in the face and wakes up. Is this behavior normal? How do I help him sleep better?

- This may be normal, as during REM sleep, an infant may twitch or flail his arms or legs and breathing may be somewhat irregular. The parent should wait until the infant seems fully awake before picking him up, or else development of sustained sleep may be delayed.
- Otherwise, ensure no other sleep disturbances: Is the baby hungry? Is the diaper freshly changed? Is there real discomfort from GER or gas? Is the baby overtired? Sick?

Case 2: Our 2 month-old baby won't sleep in his own bed. He has slept with us since his birth. We have tried lullabies, talking to him, and letting him cry, but he will only sleep in our arms. Help!

- This may be the start of a sleep onset association disorder: this baby associates being held in his parents' arms with going to sleep, and cannot self-soothe without this stimulus. Sleep training (i.e. letting the baby "cry it out") is not recommended until 6-8 mo; however, these parents can be counseled to try to put their baby in his *own crib* "drowsy but awake". In addition, they can introduce a transitional object (pacifier if not already in use) that the infant can ultimately use to self-soothe. Parents should try to limit the amount of time they are spending holding and soothing the child in the middle of the night. After 4-6 mo of age, parents could try graduated extinction method by time or proximity to help their child learn to self-soothe.
- Co-sleeping: You should also counsel these parents about the risks and benefits of co-sleeping.

Case 3: My baby is almost 3 months of age and still wakes up hungry at least once or twice during the night. My mother-in-law insists that I could solve the problem by giving him some cereal in the evening. Is she right again?

- No. Early solid food introduction *does not* increase the ability to sleep through the night. Early solids may increase the risk of GI infections and childhood obesity.

Case 4: Now that my 5 month-old baby is rolling over by himself, is it safe to let him sleep on his tummy? If not, what is the best way to keep him on his back?

- The AAP Practice Parameter on SIDS recommends placing infants on their back to sleep through 12mo. However, if the infant can roll from supine to prone and vice versa, he may be allowed to remain in the prone position, since repositioning may be disruptive. Parents should ensure that the infant's sleep environment remains free from rolls, dips or other loose bedding.

Case 5: My 4 month-old baby used to sleep all night, but suddenly, without any reason, is waking up in the middle of the night. He is not teething, hasn't been sick, and is growing and developing well. What could be the cause?

- This baby is experiencing frequent nighttime arousals. Is the source of arousal environmental (TV, street noise, sibling)? Does the baby have any sleep associations that are now no longer present? Are there any underlying medical issues—snoring, GERD, post-nasal drip, etc?
- Otherwise, this may be related to developmental changes—e.g. separation anxiety and increased gross-motor skills. Parents should be reassured that, in most babies, there is *no need for an overnight feeding beyond 4-6 mo*. Sleep training may begin in earnest with graduated extinction.

Case 6: Our 15 month-old is having terrible sleeping problems. He goes to bed around 2100, wakes up around 0100, and is wide awake until 0400. Then, he sleeps until 0800 and stays up until his 1hr afternoon nap. Thank goodness for Sesame Street in the middle of the night! What can we do?

- This history suggests limit-setting disorder, or more generally, a lack of bedtime routine. 2100 is probably too late for a 15-month old to be put to bed, and he may be overtired, leading to difficulty falling asleep. In addition, he is receiving positive reinforcement for night-waking with Sesame Street. Parents need to establish a clear bedtime routine that does not include TV.

Case 7: My son at 20 months is still waking up at 2-3 hour intervals every night. He usually asks for a drink of juice or something to eat. His daytime caregiver has trouble getting him to eat because he drinks a lot juice and has no appetite for solid foods. Is this normal behavior?

- This history suggests a combination of sleep-onset association (juice/food required to go back to sleep) and limit-setting disorders (parents can't reinforce appropriate sleeping behavior). In addition, as you recall from the Nutrition & Dental Health modules, juice should be minimized due to lack of nutritional value and especially discouraged at bedtime due to risk of dental caries.
- Would emphasize general principles of sleep hygiene (see Tables) and discuss graduated extinction/Ferber method & fading with parents.

Case 8: My son is 4 years-old and snores loudly and wakes up several times every night. His tonsils look very large and I wonder if this could be dangerous for him?

- This history suggests OSAS, during which increased work of breathing due to a combination of structural and neuromuscular conditions (adenotonsillar hypertrophy is most common cause), can lead to multiple arousals from sleep. Classic signs include snoring, witnessed apnea, snorts, arousals, restless sleeping, unusual sleeping positions, and mouth breathing. Additional manifestations may include FTT, enuresis, and daytime sleepiness.
- There are numerous long-term consequences including cor pulmonale, pulmonary HTN, and behavioral issues (apparent ADHD, poor school performance)

Case 9: My 4 ½ year-old daughter has frequent nightmares and is now afraid to go back to bed. What should I do?

- First, distinguish between nightmares and night terrors (see Quiz chart). Management varies with age: young children need to be comforted and reassured. Stressors and stimuli need to be diminished and good sleep hygiene must be practiced. Older children may need to learn new coping and relaxation skills. Parents may need to discuss the dreams concretely with the child.

Case 10: It's impossible to wake my 15 year-old up for school. It's so frustrating—he stays up until 0130 watching Late Night with Jimmy Fallon (he tells me he can't fall asleep), and then of course he is exhausted when I try to wake him up for school at 0600. On the weekends, he could sleep straight through lunch if I let him. Can you tell him to stop watching Jimmy Fallon and go to sleep?

- This history suggests Delayed Sleep Phase Syndrome (DSPS), a circadian rhythm disorder that results in a shift of the sleep-wake schedule towards later sleep times and later awakening, such that behavior and school performance are affected. In this case, it is also exacerbated by poor sleep hygiene corresponding to excess screen time exposure. Intervention is aimed towards re-shifting the sleep-wake schedule towards times that meet academic and social needs (e.g. 15 min/week). Timed light and bright light therapy may be helpful. It is also important to uncover psychosocial issues that may confound the diagnosis (e.g. school avoidance, depression, anxiety, substance abuse).

Sleep Disorders Board Review

1. The parents of a 3-month-old child are concerned that he is not getting enough sleep and is waking frequently during the night. Every time they check on him at night, he is making sucking movements and his limbs twitch. His past medical history and physical examination findings are within normal parameters. He is being fed a cow milk-based formula.

Of the following, the BEST next step in the management of this infant is to

- A. add rice cereal to the infant's formula
- B. change the infant's formula
- C. obtain polysomnography (sleep study)
- D. reassure the parents that this sleep pattern is normal**
- E. refer the infant for neurologic evaluation

Newborns can sleep 16 to 20 hours in a 24-hour period, alternating between 1- to 4-hour periods of sleep and 1 to 2 hours of being awake. Newborns cycle between rapid eye movement (REM) and non-REM sleep every 50 minutes. At the end of each cycle, the newborn may experience an arousal that is not true awakening. Parents may misinterpret this as the baby being awake and pick up the infant, causing a true arousal. During REM sleep (active sleep in the newborn period), associated movements may occur, which may include facial movements, sucking, and limb movements, as described for the infant in the vignette. By 2 months of age, infants are able to establish a day-night cycle. By 4 months, many infants can sleep uninterrupted through the night. A child of 1 year should be sleeping 13 to 14 hours, primarily during the night.

The parents of the infant described in the vignette should be counseled that their baby is not experiencing a true awakening and should be left to sleep undisturbed. There is no reason to obtain polysomnography or refer the child for a neurologic evaluation. Thickened feedings may reduce the severity and amount of regurgitation in a child who has gastroesophageal reflux, but this child is not having feeding difficulties, failure to thrive, or irritability. In the absence of signs of reflux or adverse reaction to the formula, there is no indication to change it.

2. During the health supervision visit of a term newborn boy, his mother relates that a cousin's child died at age 4 months from sudden infant death syndrome. She asks what she can do to prevent such an occurrence in her son.

Of the following, the single MOST important preventive measure is to

- A. avoid use of a pacifier
- B. cosleep in the parental bed for close observation
- C. ensure side sleep positioning to prevent aspiration
- D. ensure supine sleep positioning**
- E. use home apnea and bradycardia monitoring

Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) remains a significant cause of death in the first postnatal year. However, the rate of death has diminished by more than 50% since the recommendation was made more than a decade ago for supine rather than prone sleep position for children younger than 1 year of age.

In the United States, infant co-sleeping with parents increases the risk of SIDS, possibly related to frank suffocation.

However, the recommendation to avoid co-sleeping remains controversial when providing support for breastfeeding and considering the prevalence of co-sleeping worldwide. Further risk factors associated with co-sleeping include parental obesity and sleeping on a very soft surface, such as a waterbed. Tobacco smoke exposure increases the risk of SIDS, especially in the setting of co-sleeping.

Although initial recommendations suggested placing the child either supine or on the side to prevent SIDS, subsequent research has shown that the side position also can increase the risk of SIDS, possibly due to the propensity for a bundled infant placed on his or her side to roll forward into the prone position. Therefore, parents should be urged to place the infant supine instead of on the side for sleep.

Home apnea and bradycardia monitoring has not been shown to reduce the risk of SIDS, even in families where a previous child has died from SIDS. Its use is limited to preterm infants who have apnea of prematurity and infants in whom central apnea, known cardiac arrhythmia, or other identifiable cause of events that may respond to monitoring and cardiorespiratory resuscitation is a distinct possibility.

Pacifier use may reduce the incidence of SIDS but is not without controversy due to possible interference with breastfeeding in the early weeks after birth. However, the peak incidence of SIDS occurs between 2 and 6 months, which is primarily after the establishment of successful breastfeeding during the first 2 postnatal weeks. Modeling of appropriate infant sleep position and good patient education in the hospital may be contributing factors to adoption of these practices.

3. An 8-month-old infant often falls asleep while his mother is feeding him. He tends to sleep longest during the day and wakes frequently during the night. The parents are sleep-deprived and ask for your assistance in getting the infant to sleep more during the night.

Of the following, your BEST suggestion is to

A. instruct the parents to feed the infant promptly when he awakes at night

B. instruct the parents to keep the child awake more during the day

C. prescribe diphenhydramine for the infant at night to help him sleep

D. reassure the parents that this is a phase that will pass and recommend a follow-up evaluation in 2 months

E. recommend that the infant sleep with the parents to minimize nighttime disturbances

At birth, infants typically sleep about 18 hours per day, with sleep split evenly between the day and night. By approximately 6 to 15 months of age, most children sleep about 10 to 12 hours at night and take two daytime naps. Spontaneous awakenings are normal and occur often during periods of rapid eye movement sleep. The ability of infants to settle (return themselves to sleep) usually develops around 3 to 4 months of age. Nighttime feedings and prolonged attention at night may prolong nighttime awakenings. To encourage night settling, day sleeping should be limited to 3 to 4 consecutive hours. Infants should be placed in their own cribs to fall asleep and be allowed to calm themselves. Nighttime feedings should be short, with little stimulation.

The infant described in the vignette needs to be stimulated during the day to encourage him to stay awake for longer periods of time. Telling the parents that this is just a phase will not help the baby learn to sleep for longer periods at night. The parents should be instructed to decrease caloric intake during the night and not to feed the infant immediately when he wakes at night.

Giving diphenhydramine at night will not aid the infant in developing an inherent circadian rhythm, and its safety has not been established in infants. Suggesting that an infant sleep with the parents may increase the risk for infant suffocation or strangulation. However, for parents who choose to share a bed with their child, certain guidelines should be followed to minimize risk: use a firm mattress, never use alcohol or drugs, never use cigarettes (babies of mothers who smoke have a higher risk of dying from sudden infant death syndrome), do not place bed against the wall, and do not use heavy and bulky blankets.

4. A 4-year-old boy presents with a 2-year history of persistent bilateral nasal congestion. His parents are worried because at night he snores loudly and has had pauses in his breathing. His symptoms occur daily and have not improved with the administration of oral decongestants, nasal corticosteroids, oral antihistamines, or antibiotics. The boy denies ocular pruritus, sneezing, or rhinorrhea. On physical examination, a low-pitched inspiratory noise is audible, and there is “cobblestoning” of his posterior pharynx. Findings on the remainder of the physical examination, including the tonsils, nose (by nasal speculum examination), and neck, are unremarkable.

Of the following, the MOST likely diagnosis is

A. adenoidal hypertrophy

B. allergic rhinitis

C. choanal atresia

D. chronic sinusitis

E. juvenile nasopharyngeal angiofibroma

Chronic nasal congestion that is bilateral and persistent in children 2 to 5 years of age should prompt evaluation for an obstructive cause, specifically adenoidal hypertrophy. Typical symptoms of adenoidal hypertrophy are chronic mouth breathing, snoring, nasal obstruction, and hyponasal speech; more severe symptoms include obstructive sleep apnea syndrome and recurrent infections (eg, sinusitis, otitis media). Because the adenoidal tissue is located at the posterior aspect of the nasopharynx, it cannot be seen in the usual nasal speculum examination; nasal rhinoscopy or a lateral neck radiograph is required. Further, although enlarged tonsillar tissue may indicate enlarged adenoid tissue, a direct correlation is not always true.

Allergic rhinitis may be seasonal or perennial and can produce symptoms of rhinorrhea and nasal obstruction. Allergic rhinitis usually does not occur until 5 to 10 years of age. The absence of sneezing or rhinorrhea, and the lack of improvement with usual allergy medications (eg, nasal corticosteroids, oral antihistamines) described for the boy in the vignette also make allergic rhinitis unlikely.

Choanal atresia and choanal stenosis are rare congenital structural malformations of the nose that can result in nasal congestion and obstructive sleep apnea syndrome. Obstruction may be unilateral or bilateral and may not present until later in infancy if not complete or bilateral. However, symptoms often are noted at birth because of difficulty during feedings.

Chronic sinusitis can present at any age because the maxillary and ethmoid sinuses are present at birth. Typical symptoms may include chronic rhinorrhea (clear or discolored) and nasal obstruction. The lack of improvement with oral antibiotics for the boy in the vignette suggests that sinusitis is unlikely, but if the evaluation for adenoidal hypertrophy was negative, sinus imaging should be considered.

Juvenile nasopharyngeal angiofibroma has been described in children as young as 2 years, but typically it presents with profuse epistaxis and a nasal mass during puberty. Other causes of obstructive sleep apnea syndrome include certain glycogen storage diseases, hypothyroidism, Down syndrome, achondroplasia, laryngomalacia, and Pierre Robin anomaly.

In younger children and infants, central causes of apnea include myelomeningocele, hydrocephalus, and Arnold-Chiari malformation. Children who have central apnea lack the ability to sense hypercapnia. Finally, a mixed apnea pattern may be present that combines the aspects of central and obstructive causes.

5. A 6-year-old boy presents for evaluation due to an episode of screaming and confusion at night. The boy's parents heard him scream in his room, and when they went to him, he exhibited rapid twitching of his left arm and hand, stiffening of his left leg, rolled back eyes, and some blinking of both eyes. He was incoherent and minimally responsive for 5 to 10 minutes. After the episode, he was weak on the left side of his body. By morning, he had returned to a normal status.

Of the following, the MOST likely diagnosis is

- A. benign rolandic epilepsy**
- B. juvenile myoclonic epilepsy**
- C. night terrors**
- D. nocturnal frontal lobe epilepsy**
- E. rapid eye movement sleep behavior disorder**

The first unprovoked seizure described for the boy in the vignette occurred out of sleep and was clearly partial, with vocalization, left-sided motor movements, and transient focal weakness afterward. He is otherwise completely healthy and normal. It is possible he has had other nocturnal seizures that did not awaken his parents. The most common diagnosis for such findings in childhood is benign rolandic epilepsy, a childhood-onset epilepsy that typically occurs between the ages of 3 and 13 years and resolves before adulthood. Seizures may be infrequent, and the child usually has no other problems. Inheritance is autosomal dominant. Interictal electroencephalography showing characteristic centrotemporal spikes is confirmatory. Treatment generally is not needed because the nocturnal seizures are infrequent and do not cause any problems the following day. Partial seizure medications such as carbamazepine are effective, if used.

Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy has a later onset, typically in teenage years, and is characterized by one or more of the following: 1) myoclonic jerks, usually in the morning; 2) generalized tonic-clonic seizures, often in the morning, and 3) absence seizures. Unlike benign rolandic epilepsy, juvenile myoclonic epilepsy is a form of generalized epilepsy.

Nocturnal frontal lobe epilepsy has a variable and unusual nocturnal presentation that involves complex, stereotyped dystonic movements and sometimes vocalizations that can lead to confusion with parasomnias. The associated seizures typically last fewer than 2 minutes and may cluster, occurring many times per night, at any time of the night. The affected child may have some partial recall of the events.

Night terrors are a non-rapid eye movement (REM) sleep parasomnia that can be confused with nocturnal seizures. Night terrors can start as early as 18 months of age, earlier than benign rolandic epilepsy, peak at age 5 to 7 years, and usually resolve by adolescence. The phenomenology involves a sudden arousal, vocalization, and confusion, with autonomic changes such as mydriasis and tachycardia. The movements are not repetitive clonic movements or twitching, like a seizure. The child is unconscious during the episode and does not recall it the next day. Events usually occur, at most, twice per night and during deep slow wave sleep, in the first half of the night, 1 to 2 hours after falling asleep.

REM sleep behavior disorder is an uncommon parasomnia in children. Paralysis normally occurs during REM sleep. In REM sleep behavior disorder, there is a partial or full loss of this paralysis. As a result, the individual may act out dreams that may be vivid, intense, or violent. This disorder tends to occur in adults who have neurodegenerative diseases and is associated with the use of psychiatric medications or alcohol withdrawal. However, cases have been described in children, including those who have autism.

6. A parent requests referral to a urologist for her 7-year-old son because of his bedwetting problem. He has no urinary incontinence during the day and is otherwise healthy. Physical examination reveals normal growth parameters and normal genitalia with a circumcised phallus. Dipstick urinalysis results are normal, with a specific gravity of 1.025.

Of the following, the MOST appropriate next step is

- A. a complete blood count
- B. psychological evaluation
- C. reassurance and a follow-up visit in 6 months**
- D. referral to a urologist
- E. renal/bladder ultrasonography

Nocturnal enuresis is defined as the involuntary passage of urine during sleep in children older than 5 years of age and occurs in approximately 15% of children at age 5 and 1% of teens at age 15. There is a male predominance and often a positive family history.

For the child who experiences no daytime wetting or dysuria and who has normal urinalysis results, such as the boy described in the vignette, the likelihood of renal pathology is low. Therefore, reassurance and a follow-up visit in 6 months are sufficient to address his problem. No other studies are indicated. Children who have both daytime and nighttime wetting (diurnal enuresis) beyond the age of 6 years; enuresis associated with encopresis; or symptoms of dysuria, frequency, or difficulty initiating urination require more evaluation and intervention.

A complete blood count is not helpful in diagnosing or treating enuresis. Urologic referral and imaging studies are not helpful unless there are symptoms or signs suggestive of structural renal disease (eg, recurrent infection, dysfunctional voiding). A careful physical examination should be performed to assess genitourinary anatomy, exclude trauma from sexual abuse, detect lumbosacral spine anomalies, and exclude bladder dilatation or abdominal mass.

Psychological evaluation is unnecessary in uncomplicated enuresis in the developmentally normal and well-adapted child younger than 8 years of age. Older children and children for whom nocturnal enuresis is related to social dysfunction, family stress, or poor self-esteem may benefit from therapy to target those effects. The use of a bedwetting alarm has the highest rate of success in young children.

Dr. Arora's Pediatric Sleep Medicine Clinical Pearls

1. All children sleep.
2. Majority of sleep issues overall have a significant behavioral component to them. This means that the parents/adolescent hold the key in treatment.
3. When treating infant and toddler sleep onset association disorders, understand that you are treating two patients: the child and the parent. Parents often have a lot of anxiety and attachment regarding their infant's sleep and safety, especially in instances of traumatic birth, IVF pregnancy or a postnatal complication. Gently remind the family that they have to be able to manage a little bit of their own anxiety in order for the child's sleep to get better.
4. When making behavioral change, things seem to look like they are getting worse before they get better. Parents must be ready to accept a few weeks of increased crying and tantrums at night in order for therapy to be effective.
5. There is no good data suggesting that Cry It Out (Standard Extinction) method is inferior to Ferber method (Graduated Extinction) method. A lot of the initial statements were made based on expert opinion. Recent research in psychology literature has shown no long-term impact on infant-maternal attachment or behavioral disorders with Standard Extinction method. The decision should be based on parent's parenting strategy and degree of acceptance of transient discomfort.
6. Parasomnias are more prominent in first half of the night and associated with poor/no recall. Nightmares are common in second half of the night and may have a good recall. Majority of the times, treatment for both involves consistent sleep, wake times, adequate sleep duration, safe environment, reassurance and a tincture of time.
7. ADHD and poor sleep are related. Not all ADHD is caused by poor sleep and conversely, not all kids with ADHD have poor sleep. Kids with ADHD have higher likelihood of behavioral insomnia, circadian rhythm disorders and OSAS. Resolution of their sleep issues leads to improvement, but not resolution of ADHD.
8. Poor sleep hygiene and inadequate sleep are more common etiologies for daytime somnolence than OSA. Excess light exposure at night via phone and TV adds to children's delayed sleep onset. For bedtimes to work, they must remain relatively consistent on the weekend. Rule of thumb is no more than 1 hour difference between weekday and weekend sleep-wake times.
9. Consider a referral for a polysomnogram in a child with signs of sleep disordered breathing and any nocturnal or daytime impact.
10. For melatonin, less is more. Due to lack of regulation and differences in formulation, melatonin is often contaminated with a lot of other psychotropic chemicals. Ensure that families keep their melatonin secure. The overall goal should be to gradually come off Melatonin when a child's sleep has become more regulated.

Dream Feed

The goal of a dream feed is to create a long stretch of uninterrupted sleep for both you and your child. Because of concerns related to your child's need to eat during the night, the dream feed will help you decide when she eats, rather than you having to wake multiple times during the night to feed her. The following provides guidance on how to implement the dream feed.

1. **Your child's dream feed should occur approximately two to three hours after she has fallen asleep at bedtime, and close to the time you usually go to bed.** For you, this dream feed should occur at _____.
2. **At that time, go in and gently rouse your child and feed her (nursing or bottle).** Then place her back in the crib (it is okay if she is asleep at this point).
3. **For all additional night wakings, respond consistently to your child but do not feed her.** For you, this response should be _____.
4. **When your child wakes for the final time in the morning (the time she usually wakes up to start the day), have a routine that is different than during the night.** For example, you can get her up, change her diaper and clothes, and take her in a different room before feeding her again.

The dream feed is a helpful intervention for children who still need to eat during the night but who are waking multiple times or at unpredictable times to do so. By gently waking your child to eat before your own sleep onset, you can assure that additional feedings are not needed during the night.

The Good Morning Light

The Good Morning Light is a simple way to teach your child the difference between night and day. As adults, we simply look at our clocks to tell us whether we should go back to sleep or get up. But young children do not have this ability. The following provides guidance on how to create and effectively use the Good Morning Light.

1. Plug a night-light into a timer, the kind you would use to turn your lights on and off if you were on vacation, or to turn your holiday lights on and off. Timers can be purchased at any hardware, home improvement, or large retail store. A reasonable alternative is something like "OK to Wake" alarm clock that can be found on Amazon.

If your child already uses a night-light

2. Set the timer so the light comes on about 30 minutes before your child's bedtime and goes off around the time your child is currently waking up in the morning to start the day. For you, the light should go on at 7:45 PM and off at 7:00 AM.
3. During your bedtime routine and at bedtime, point at the light and say, "The light is on, it is sleeping time!"
4. If your child wakes during the night or before his current wake time, go in and point at the light and remind him, "The light is on, it is sleeping time!"
5. Once the light goes off/ turns green in the morning, be ready to get up with your child. Point at the light and make a very big deal that the light is off and it is time to get up.

If your child does not use a night-light

2. Set the timer so the light comes on around the time your child is currently waking up in the morning to start the day. For you, the light should go on at 6:30 AM__.
3. During your bedtime routine and at bedtime point at the light and say, "The light is off, it is sleeping time!"
4. If your child wakes during the night or before his current wake time, go in and point at the light and remind him, "The light is off, it is sleeping time!"
5. Once the light goes on in the morning, be ready to get up with your child. Point at the light and make a very big deal that the light is on and it is time to get up.

After 1 to 2 weeks of pairing the light with your child's current waking time

6. Once your child understands that the light signals that it is morning time, you can move the timer so his/her wake time is 15 minutes later. You can continue to move the timer 15 minutes later every 5 to 7 days until the desired wake time is reached.
7. Once in place the Good Morning Light can also be used for naptime.

Important Things to Remember

- You must respond consistently to all night wakings for your child to understand that when the light changes, it is time to get up. For example, if you bring your child to your bed before the light changes, he/she will not look at the light to see if it is time to get up but will continue waking up hoping that eventually you'll take him to your bed.
- Make sure your child can see the light, otherwise he/she will not make the association between the light changing and waking up.
- At the same time, make sure your child cannot play with or change the timer.
- Once your child makes the association, do not change the time too quickly!! This can result in frustration and prolonged crying.

The Good Morning Light provides a quick and easy visual cue for your child to learn the difference between night and day. However, for it to really work, you need to have the light change at a time close to your child's current wake time. You also need to provide a consistent response to nighttime awakenings and not "rescue" your child before the light changing.

Nighttime Awakenings—Checking Method

Nighttime arousals are normal. All children (and adults) wake approximately two to six times every night. Problematic nighttime awakenings occur when your child cannot return to sleep without your help after she has a normal nighttime arousal. To teach your child to return to sleep during the night, you must first teach her to fall asleep independently at bedtime. Once she has learned how to fall asleep without your help, in about 2 weeks, you will see that she starts to sleep longer and longer stretches at night without waking. **Keep in mind that this treatment focuses only on bedtime, so your child's nighttime awakenings will continue for at least the next few weeks.**

If you are currently nursing/feeding or rocking your child to sleep, you must first make changes to this behavior. For example, move the nursing/feeding to the first part of your bedtime routine and then rock her to sleep. After a few nights of rocking your child to sleep, rock her for only a few minutes before placing her in the crib awake. The following provides guidance on how to help teach your child to fall asleep at bedtime without your help once you are ready to place your child into the crib awake.

1. **Have a consistent bedtime routine and a consistent bedtime in place.** For your child, this routine should include the following: _____ and should end at _____ p.m.
2. **At the end of the routine, you should place your child in her crib awake and leave the room.**
3. **You can then check on your child as often as you want, but the longer you can stay out of the room, the better!** If your child gets more upset by your visits, then don't go in as often. For the first few nights you should check on your child every _____. After that, the time between checks should increase by _____ every night.
4. **When you check on your child, the visit is brief and boring.** These checks are for you to say, "I love you, it's sleeping time!" and to make sure your child is safe and okay.
5. **It is best if you do not pick your child up to comfort her, as she could snuggle into your shoulder and go right to sleep.** Then all she has learned is that if she cries long enough you will "rescue" her. However, if you feel as if your child is past the point where she will be able to calm down without a brief interaction, you may pick her up for a couple of minutes to try and calm her down. However, she must be returned to her crib awake. If when you put her back in the crib she becomes even more distressed, it may be better in the future to not pick her up again.
6. **When your child wakes during the night, you should respond immediately and consistently.** For your family, this response should be _____.

(continued)

Important Things to Remember

- Your child is crying at bedtime because she is tired and knows how to fall asleep only with your help. She will still be very happy to see you in the morning and there will be no short-term or long-term damage by doing this sleep training.
- The second night will likely be worse than the first night! On average, most children cry 45 minutes the first night at bedtime. On the second night, most children cry 90 minutes. By the third night, most children cry about 20 minutes. So, you have to be prepared to do at least 3 nights of this intervention. If you “rescue” your child after prolonged crying and then help her fall asleep (e.g., rocking, nursing), all she has learned is that prolonged crying will get her what she ultimately wants, which is you helping her to fall asleep.
- Although unlikely, it is possible that your child will throw up. To prepare, have a second set of sheets on the bed with a pad in between and a second set of pajamas ready to go. If your child vomits, take her out of the crib and remove the dirty sheets, clean her up and change her pajamas. Then return her to the crib. Although this sounds terrible, it is necessary because children as young as 6 months can learn to vomit on demand. So if you help your child fall asleep after she vomits, she may learn to vomit every night until she gets what she wants, which is you helping her fall asleep.
- Listening to a baby cry when she is learning to sleep independently is very challenging. Here are some strategies you can use to help yourself manage your frustration, worry, guilt, and irritation (all of which are normal feelings!):
 - take a bath;
 - listen to music;
 - meditate;
 - exercise;
 - talk on the phone;
 - play a game;
 - enlist the support of your partner, friends, and/or family to take turns with you monitoring your child so that you can take a break to have time for yourself. This can also be very helpful for children who need their sleep managed in the middle of the night. Taking turns with a partner can help each of you get much needed rest.

Although challenging, this treatment is very successful as long as you are consistent and follow through with all of the recommended steps. Keep in mind that you are doing this to help your child learn to sleep. The short-term benefit is that both you and your child will start sleeping better. The long-term benefits are numerous, including improved child and parent mood, improved parent-child interactions, and improved family functioning.

Nighttime Awakenings—Parental Presence

Nighttime arousals are normal. All children (and adults) wake approximately two to six times every night. Problematic nighttime awakenings occur when your child cannot return to sleep without your help after he has a normal nighttime arousal. To teach your child to return to sleep during the night, you must first teach him to fall asleep independently at bedtime. Once he has learned how to fall asleep without your help, in about 2 weeks, you will see that he starts to sleep longer and longer stretches at night without waking. **Keep in mind that this treatment focuses only on bedtime, so your child's nighttime awakenings will continue for at least the next few weeks.**

If you are currently nursing/feeding or rocking your child to sleep, you must first make changes to this behavior. For example, move the nursing/feeding to the first part of your bedtime routine and then rock your child to sleep. After a few nights of rocking your child to sleep, rock him for only a few minutes before placing him in the crib awake. The following provides guidance on how to help teach your child to fall asleep at bedtime without your help once you are ready to place your child into the crib awake.

1. **Have a consistent bedtime routine and a consistent bedtime in place.** For your child this routine should include the following: _____ and should end at _____ p.m.
2. **At the end of the routine, you should place your child in the crib awake and then stay with him until he is asleep.** For the first few nights, you can comfort or interact with your child by rubbing his head or providing verbal reassurances (“I love you, it’s sleeping time”).
3. **After a few nights of your child falling asleep in the crib with you present, you have two choices:**
 - a. ***Move half the distance from the crib to the door and stay on the floor until your child is asleep.*** After 3 to 5 successful nights (e.g., limited crying), move to the doorway and remain until your child is asleep. After an additional 3 to 5 nights, move into the hallway and remain until your child is asleep.
 - b. ***Stay with your child for a few minutes and then take a short break (1–2 minutes), returning and staying with your child until he is asleep.*** Each night, the break should get longer and longer, with the goal of your child falling asleep when you are not in the room. You should always return to ensure your child is asleep, and if not, stay with him until he does fall asleep.
4. **It is best if you do not pick your child up to comfort him, as he could snuggle into your shoulder and go right to sleep.** Then all he has learned is that if he cries long enough you will “rescue” him. However, if you feel as if your child is past the point where he will be able to calm down without a brief interaction, you may pick him up for a couple of minutes to try and calm him down. However, he must be returned to his crib awake. If when you put him back in the crib he becomes even more distressed, it may be better in the future to not pick him up again.
5. **When your child wakes during the night, you should respond immediately and consistently.** For your family, this response should be _____.

(continued)

Important Things to Remember

- Your child is crying at bedtime because he is tired and knows how to fall asleep only with your help. He will still be very happy to see you in the morning, and there will be no short-term or long-term damage by doing this sleep training.
- The second night will likely be worse than the first night!
- Although unlikely, it is possible that your child will throw up. To prepare, have a second set of sheets on the bed with a pad in between and a second set of pajamas ready to go. If your child vomits, take him out of the crib and remove the dirty sheets, clean him up and change his pajamas. Then return him to the crib. Although this sounds terrible, it is necessary because children as young as 6 months can learn to vomit on demand. So if you help your child fall asleep after he vomits, then he may learn to vomit every night until he gets what he wants, which is you helping him fall asleep.

Although challenging, this treatment is very successful as long as you are consistent and follow through with all of the recommended steps. Keep in mind that you are doing this to help your child learn to sleep. The short-term benefit is that both you and your child will start sleeping better. The long-term benefits are numerous, including improved child and parent mood, improved parent–child interactions, and improved family functioning.

The Bedtime Pass

Children rarely want to go to bed, preferring instead to stay up and play or simply spend time with parents. The result can be bedtime protests, stalling, or “curtain calls” (getting out of bed over and over to ask for something). The Bedtime Pass is one way to teach your child to stay in bed and fall asleep independently with minimal protests. The following provides guidance on how to use the Bedtime Pass with your child.

1. **Have a consistent bedtime routine and a consistent bedtime in place.** For your child this routine should include the following: _____ and should end at _____ p.m.
2. **Following the bedtime routine, your child should be placed in his own bed and given a Bedtime Pass.** A Bedtime Pass is a notecard that he can decorate or some other type of tangible ticket or token. The first few nights, you may want to give your child two or three Bedtime Passes until he fully understands how the Bedtime Pass works.
3. **Your child should be reminded that if he calls out or gets out of bed, he will have to give up the Bedtime Pass.** Otherwise, if he keeps the pass, it can be exchanged in the morning for a small age-appropriate prize (e.g., sticker, small toy, 15 extra minutes of screen time). One of the best rewards is not food or money but special time with a parent doing a favorite activity (e.g., bike ride, painting fingernails, going to the playground).
4. **Once he is in bed, you should leave the room.** If your child calls out or gets up, you should respond to his request (e.g., another hug, a drink of water), return him to bed, and remove the Bedtime Pass.
5. **If your child calls out or gets up after he no longer has a Bedtime Pass, you should return him to bed with minimal interaction, ignoring any other requests.**

Important Things to Remember

- The Bedtime Pass can also be a Nighttime Pass for those children who wake you up in the middle of the night for an unnecessary reason.
- The rewards you and your child choose need to be motivating enough that he will want to hold on to his Bedtime Pass. Over time, the rewards may have to change to keep your child motivated. In addition, after the first week, you can require your child to earn more than one Bedtime Pass in order to earn a prize.
- When responding to your child, your interactions should be very brief, minimal, and boring. Otherwise the requests and curtain calls will continue as he is getting the attention he desires.

Parental attention is very motivating to children, this is why they will make “curtain calls” or protest at bedtime. The physical presence of the Bedtime Pass allows him to decide whether he would rather have immediate attention or a reward in the morning. That said, once the pass is gone, your child will quickly learn it is better to keep the pass, as he will not be getting your attention as desired.

The Sleep Fairy

Children rarely want to go to bed, preferring instead to stay up and play or simply spend time with parents. The result can be bedtime protests, stalling, or “curtain calls” (getting out of bed over and over to ask for something). The Sleep Fairy is one way to encourage your child to stay in bed and fall asleep with minimal protests. The following provides guidance on how to use the Sleep Fairy with your child.

1. **Your child should be told that there is a Sleep Fairy who will come to visit her if she goes to bed when asked and falls asleep, leaving a small prize under her pillow.** Depending on the age of the child, prizes can include stickers, a penny, a small toy from the dollar store, or a couple of favorite treats (chocolate chips) in a bag.
2. **Following a consistent bedtime routine and bedtime, your child should be placed in bed.** She should be reminded that the Sleep Fairy will come to visit after she is asleep. Every night for 2 weeks, you should place a small prize under your child’s pillow after she is asleep.
3. **After those initial 2 weeks, your child should be told that you don’t know when the Sleep Fairy is going to come now because she has a lot of houses to visit.** You can leave a prize every second or third day initially and then on other random days to keep your child guessing.

Children who are old enough to understand the Tooth Fairy often respond quickly to the Sleep Fairy, who rewards them for falling asleep. By receiving a prize every night for 2 weeks, your child learns to fall asleep at bedtime with fewer protests. After that, the use of a more irregular rewards schedule will help keep your child going to bed and falling asleep, as she is unsure if this is one of the nights the Sleep Fairy will come to visit.

Take a Break

We all have our favorite ways of falling asleep; for your child, that is falling asleep with you present. "Take a Break" is used to teach your child to fall asleep independently at bedtime with minimal protests. The following provides guidance on how to "Take a Break" with your child.

1. **Have a consistent bedtime routine and a consistent bedtime in place.** For your child this routine should include the following: _____ and should end at _____ p.m.
2. **At the end of the routine, you should place your child in bed awake.** If you are not already consistently staying with your child in her bed at bedtime, for the first few nights, you should simply stay with her until she falls asleep. This will help to solidify her bedtime and ability to fall asleep at this time.
3. **After bedtime and sleep onset are consistent, stay with your child for 5 to 10 minutes (or less than half the time it takes her to fall asleep), then take a break!** Tell your child, "I'll be right back, Mommy has to use the potty" or "Daddy needs to brush his teeth, I'll be back shortly." For the first few nights, this break should only be 1 to 2 minutes (or less if you have a highly anxious child or a child who won't stay in bed alone for a long time).
4. **Return from your break and praise your child for staying in bed and trying to fall asleep.** Then remain with your child until she falls asleep.
5. **Each night, your break should get a little bit longer.** The goal is for your child to fall asleep while you are not in the room.
6. **Always return to check on your child after a certain amount of time.** If she is not asleep, stay with her until she falls asleep.
7. **If your child wakes during the night, you should respond immediately and consistently.** For your family, this response should be _____.

Important Things to Remember

- As your break gets longer each night, be sure to set a timer to remind you to go back and check on your child.
- If your child gets out of bed before you return, return her to bed with minimal interaction, simply saying, "It's sleeping time, you need to stay in bed." The next night, you may need to shorten your break and then provide even more verbal praise for when the child does stay in bed as instructed.

Some children cannot fall asleep without a parent close by, whether in their bed or in their room. Take a Break is a gradual way to teach your child to fall asleep at bedtime without you present. Although it takes a little while to reach the goal of your child falling asleep independently, this approach reduces "curtain calls" and bedtime protests, making bedtime less stressful for everyone in the house.

The Second Goodnight

Children rarely want to go to bed, preferring instead to stay up and play or simply spend time with parents. The result can be bedtime protests, stalling, or “curtain calls” (getting out of bed over and over to ask for something). The Second Goodnight is one way to teach your child to stay in bed and fall asleep independently with minimal protests. The following provides guidance on how to use the Second Goodnight with your child.

1. **Have a consistent bedtime routine and a consistent bedtime in place.** For your child, this routine should include the following: _____ and should end at _____ p.m.
2. **For each step of the bedtime routine, your child should earn a token for completing the task in a timely fashion.** Some examples of tokens are poker chips, tickets, or marbles placed in a jar. You will need to create some type of reward system where he can exchange tokens in the morning for a small age-appropriate prize (e.g., sticker, small toy, 15 extra minutes of screen time). One of the best rewards is not food or money but special time with a parent doing a favorite activity (e.g., bike ride, hitting baseballs, painting fingernails).
3. **Following a consistent bedtime routine and at a consistent time each night, your child should be placed in his own bed.**
4. **Once he is in bed, you should leave the room and return for a “second goodnight.”** If your child is still lying quietly in bed, he earns a token.
5. **If your child calls out or gets out of bed, return him to bed with minimal interaction other than to remind him it is bedtime.** Then remove one token.
6. **The first few nights, you should return for multiple goodnight checks (e.g., every 5 minutes).** Each time, the child should be verbally praised and given another token. After the first few nights, the time in between goodnight checks should be increased each night.
7. **If your child wakes during the night, you should respond immediately and consistently.** For your family, this response should be _____.

Important Things to Remember

- Although it may feel as if you are bribing your child for staying in bed, you are actually rewarding him for doing what you want. Over time, the need for rewards at bedtime will decrease as your child learns the skill of quickly and easily falling asleep at bedtime.

Parental attention is very motivating to children, this is why they will make “curtain calls” or protest at bedtime. The Second Goodnight provides your child the desired attention, but in this case for the behavior that you want to see—him staying in bed and falling asleep. By regularly checking on your child and rewarding him for staying in bed, you are providing brief, frequent, and positive interactions that will reduce the stress of bedtime and help your child fall asleep easier.
