

When is Bruising Concerning for Abuse?

TEN-4-FACESp

Bruising Rule for Children Under 4 Years of Age

Kids will always be kids.

If bruising in any of the places highlighted below is present without a reasonable explanation, strongly consider seeking medical care so that your child's physician can evaluate for child abuse, medical concerns, and/or consult with an expert in child abuse.

See the signs.

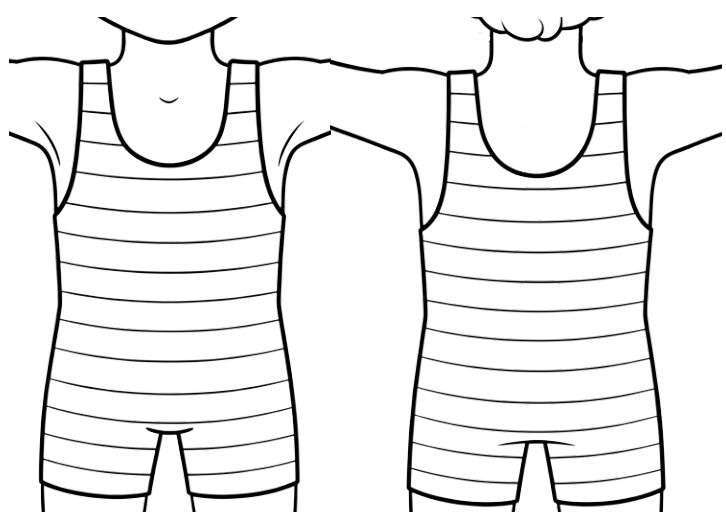
Play can sometimes result in minor cuts, scrapes, and bruises.

These minor injuries are usually present on areas of the body like knees, shins, elbows, and foreheads.

Any other bruises may raise a red flag for possible abuse or medical concerns.

TEN

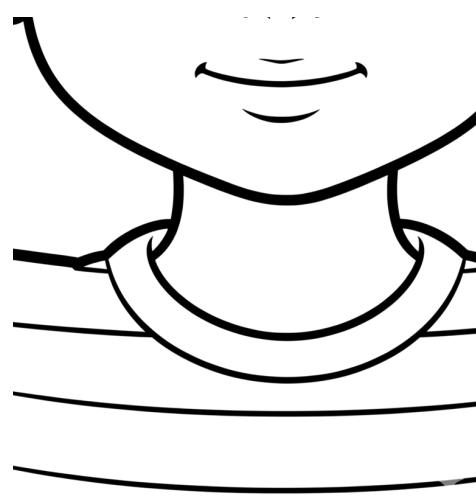
Torso



Ears



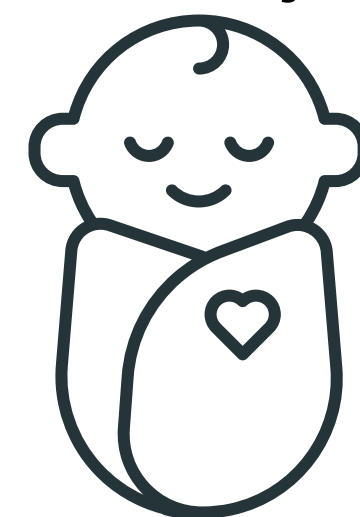
Neck



4

months and younger

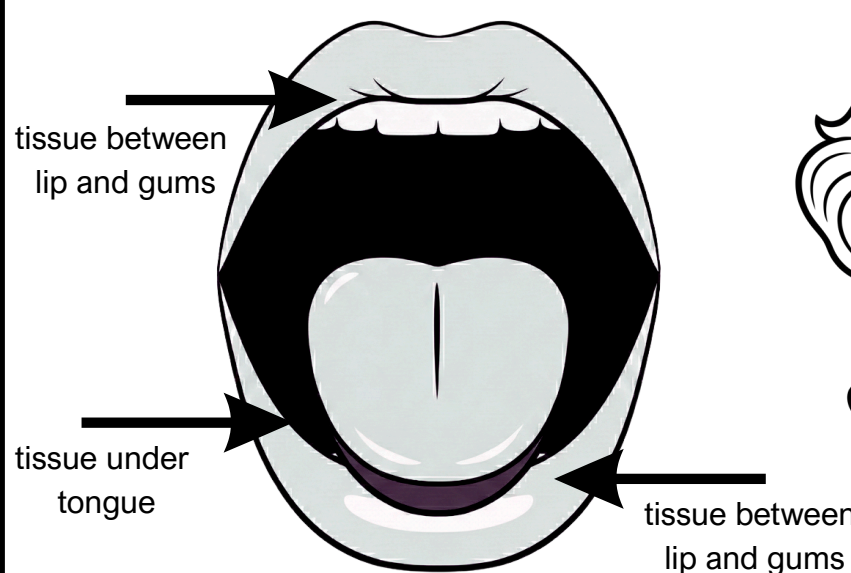
Any bruise



Anywhere

FACES

Frenulum



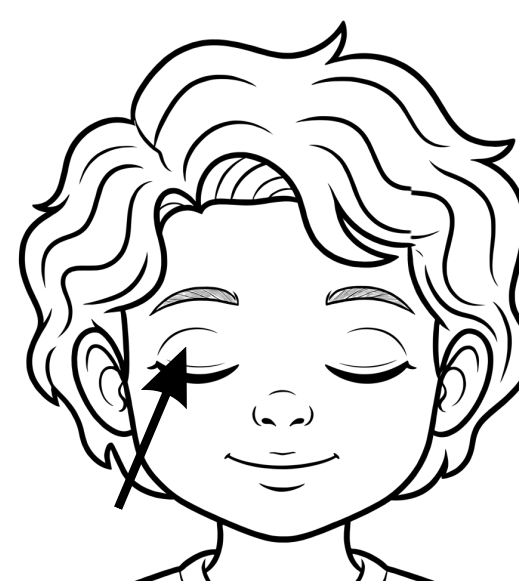
Angle of Jaw



Cheeks
(fleshy part)



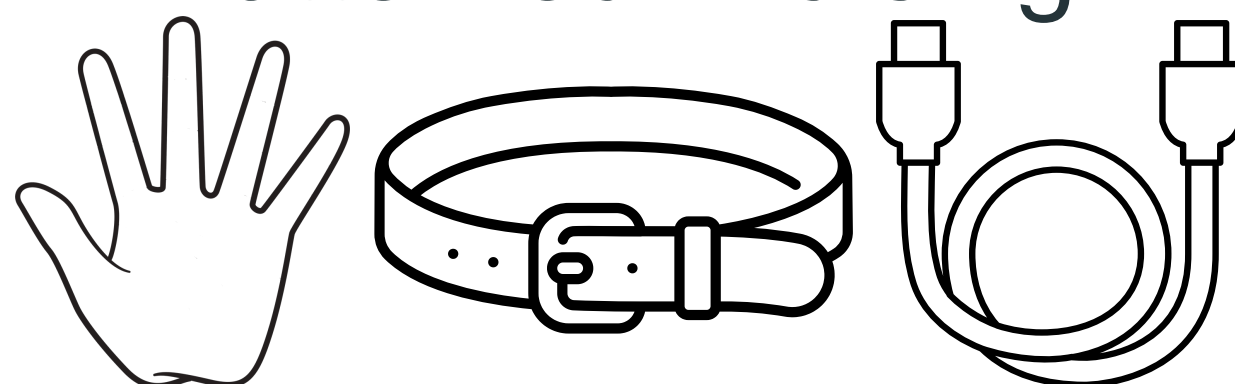
Eyelids



Subconjunctivae



Patterned Bruising



Bruises in specific patterns like slap, grab, or loop marks

The TEN-4-FACESp bruising rule cannot diagnose abuse but should function as a screening tool to improve the identification of potentially abused children who require further evaluation. TEN-4-FACESp was developed and validated by Dr. Mary Clyde Pierce and colleagues. It is published and available for FREE download luriechildrens.org/ten-4-facesp. This infographic was reviewed and approved by Dr. Mary Clyde Pierce and colleagues.

