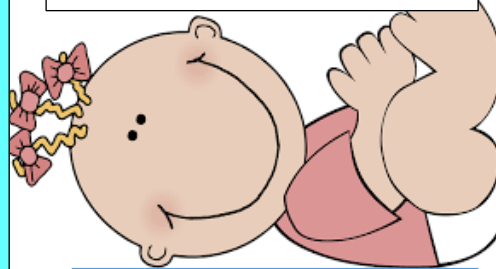


**Bruising in a non-mobile child** should never be interpreted in isolation and should always be assessed in the context of the child's

- medical history
- social history
- developmental ability
- explanation

**BRUISING IN  
NON MOBILE CHILDREN**



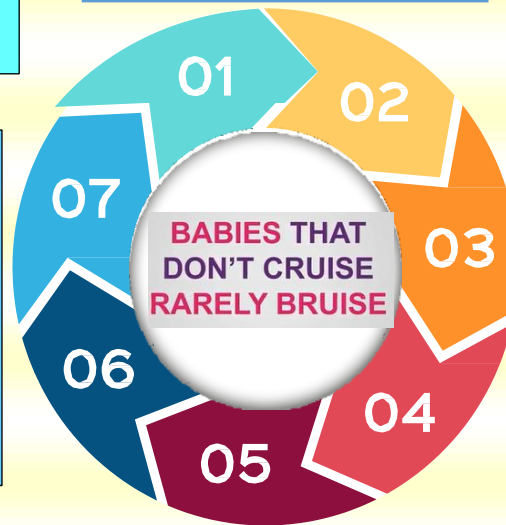
**Be professionally curious!**

It is recognised that only a small percentage of bruising in non-mobile babies will have an innocent explanation  
E.g. a medical cause

**Bruising cannot be accurately aged from an assessment of colour – from either a clinical assessment or a photograph.**

**A new animation film** provides advice to practitioners on what action to take if you are worried about bruising in a non-mobile child

[babies that don't cruise rarely bruise](#)



**Bruising is the commonest presenting feature of physical abuse in children.**

Bruising is strongly related to mobility.

Bruising in a child who is not yet crawling is very unusual and should prompt suspicion of maltreatment.

Remember hidden harm when any child present with a bruise. Child protection medical investigations will explore this further.

**Response**

Document the explanation of the bruise

Log all injuries on a body map.

Be open and honest with the parents about your concerns unless you are concerned that the child may be at further risk

Advise the parents of the need to make a referral to Children's Social Care with a view to an urgent examination by a paediatrician

Telephone referral to MASH Tel 336080 and complete the e-MARF as per process.

**ASSESSMENT – Cause for concern?**

1. The explanation of the bruise may be inconsistent, vague or not compatible with the injury or there may be no explanation at all.
2. There may be a delay in seeking medical help or no help at all.
3. Ask when the bruising was first noticed
4. Critically consider the age and developmental ability
5. Any background safeguarding information?

**Useful documents:**

NSPCC Core Information bruising  
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1046/core-info-bruises-children.pdf>

Rotherham Safeguarding Board Partnership procedures

[RSCP bruising in non mobile children guidance](#)