



Dear Director,

Thank you so much for the care you provide to all the precious children in your home or center. We are an organization made up of parents, medical professionals, and other individuals, and we greatly appreciate the loving care that you provide to the children who come to you each day.

We are writing to ask you to join us in protecting babies and toddlers from something that can hurt them. **When your staff members change diapers, it is possible that they are making a harmful but easily corrected mistake.**

A growing number of American parents are choosing to keep their baby boys intact (not circumcised). This is a safe, healthy, and natural choice that simply acknowledges that boys are born perfect with no need for surgery. Because circumcision has been common in the United States for many decades, misinformation about the foreskin is still prevalent and many caregivers erroneously believe they must retract (pull back) the foreskin of a baby or child to clean underneath.

At birth, the foreskin is fused to the glans (head of the penis) by a shared membrane, much like a fingernail is fused to a finger. The tip of a child's foreskin acts like a sphincter and opens only for urination. This design works to keep contaminants away from the urethra and to prevent infection. According to current research, the average age at which the shared membrane between foreskin and glans dissolves and the foreskin becomes retractable is 10 years of age.

On their website healthychildren.org, the American Academy of Pediatrics cautions against premature retraction of the foreskin, explaining that "Forcing the foreskin to retract before it is ready can cause severe pain, bleeding, and tears in the skin." This may result in scarring and can lead to other chronic issues. Once the membrane has fully dissolved, the boy will be able to retract his foreskin for rinsing on his own. Caregivers should never attempt to do so prior to this point.

We respectfully ask that you communicate the following current care guidelines to all daycare workers who change diapers:

Proper care and cleaning for intact boys is very simple: Just wipe the outside of the penis from base to tip, as if cleaning a finger. Only clean what is seen and do not retract or manipulate the foreskin.

Please visit YourWholeBaby.org/daycare to find a free printable chart of proper intact care information that can be hung by all changing tables. We also have a free pamphlet that further explains the dangers of forced foreskin retraction, as well as cards, stickers, and laminated signs available on our website.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this issue! We'd love to help you with any questions or concerns. Please visit YourWholeBaby.org or email us at info@yourwholebaby.org.

Sincerely,
The Volunteer Staff of Your Whole Baby



Your Whole Baby, 501(c)(3)