

Columbus Public Health and CelebrateOne Cribs for Kids® Program

Columbus Public Health (CPH) is committed to reducing sleep-related infant deaths by providing education and a safe sleep surface to families without cribs for their babies less than 1 year of age. Our *Cribs for Kids®* program provides portable cribs (also called pack 'n plays) for FREE to families who meet requirements, along with safe sleep education and a demonstration on correct usage.



Benefits of a pack 'n play:

- It is easy to use (<https://vimeo.com/194981104>).
- It can be used until a child reaches 30 pounds and 35 inches, often beyond 12 months of age.
- It folds up and is easy to take with you.
- It can be used when the baby is sleeping or as a playpen when a baby is awake.
- It has a strong safety record and meets the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) safety guidelines, including:
 - o a sturdy bottom and wide base
 - o smooth surfaces without hardware that sticks out
 - o legs with locks to prevent folding while in use, and
 - o a firm, tight-fitting mattress.

While cardboard boxes are gaining popularity as a sleep surface for babies, CPH and *CelebrateOne* (www.celebrateone.info) prefer pack 'n plays over cardboard boxes because babies quickly outgrow the boxes between 2-4 months old. Additionally, liquids or heat can damage the boxes. Placing the box on a bed, couch, table or dresser also poses a risk of the box and baby falling. The risk of suffocation increases if even one item is put in the small box with a baby.

As a result, CPH partners with 27 other community agencies to provide pack 'n plays to families who need them. 1,120 pack 'n plays were distributed in 2016 by CPH and our partners.

If you need a portable crib for your baby call 614-645-3111.

To learn more about infant safe sleep, please visit <https://www.columbus.gov/safesleep/>.