

# TEN-4 BRUISING RULE

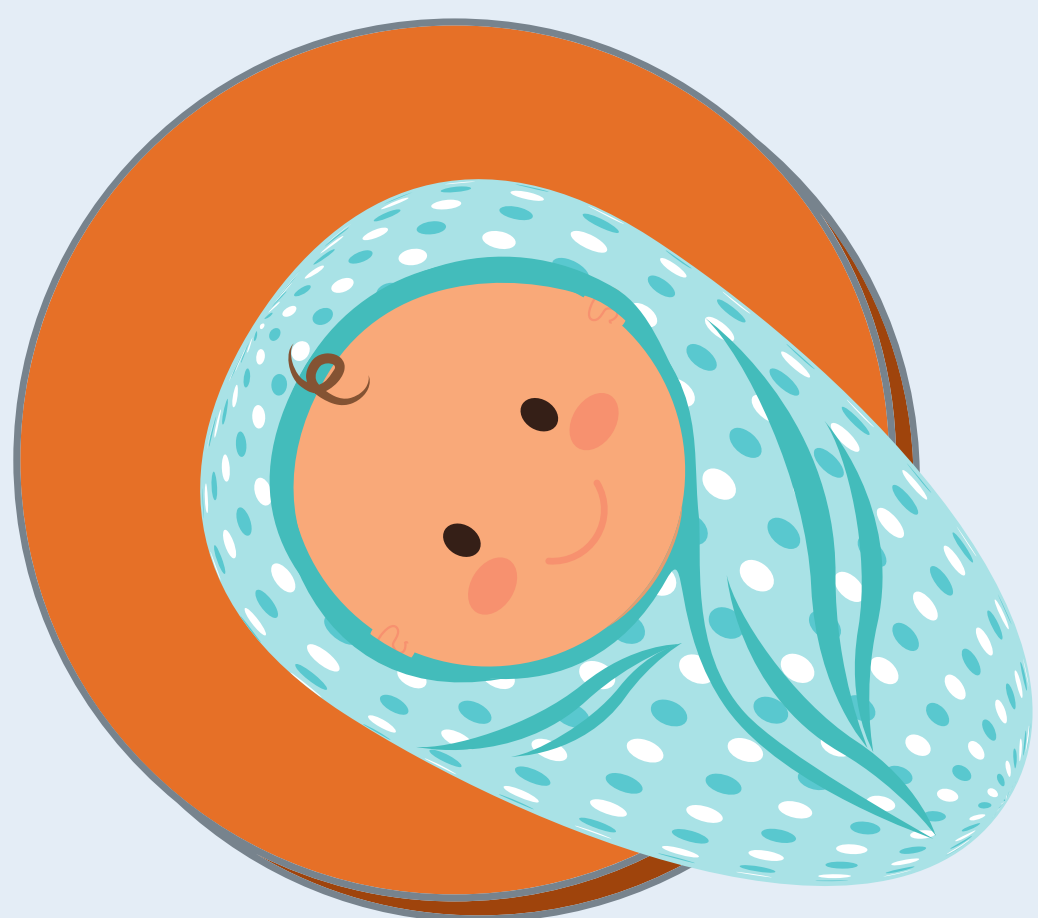
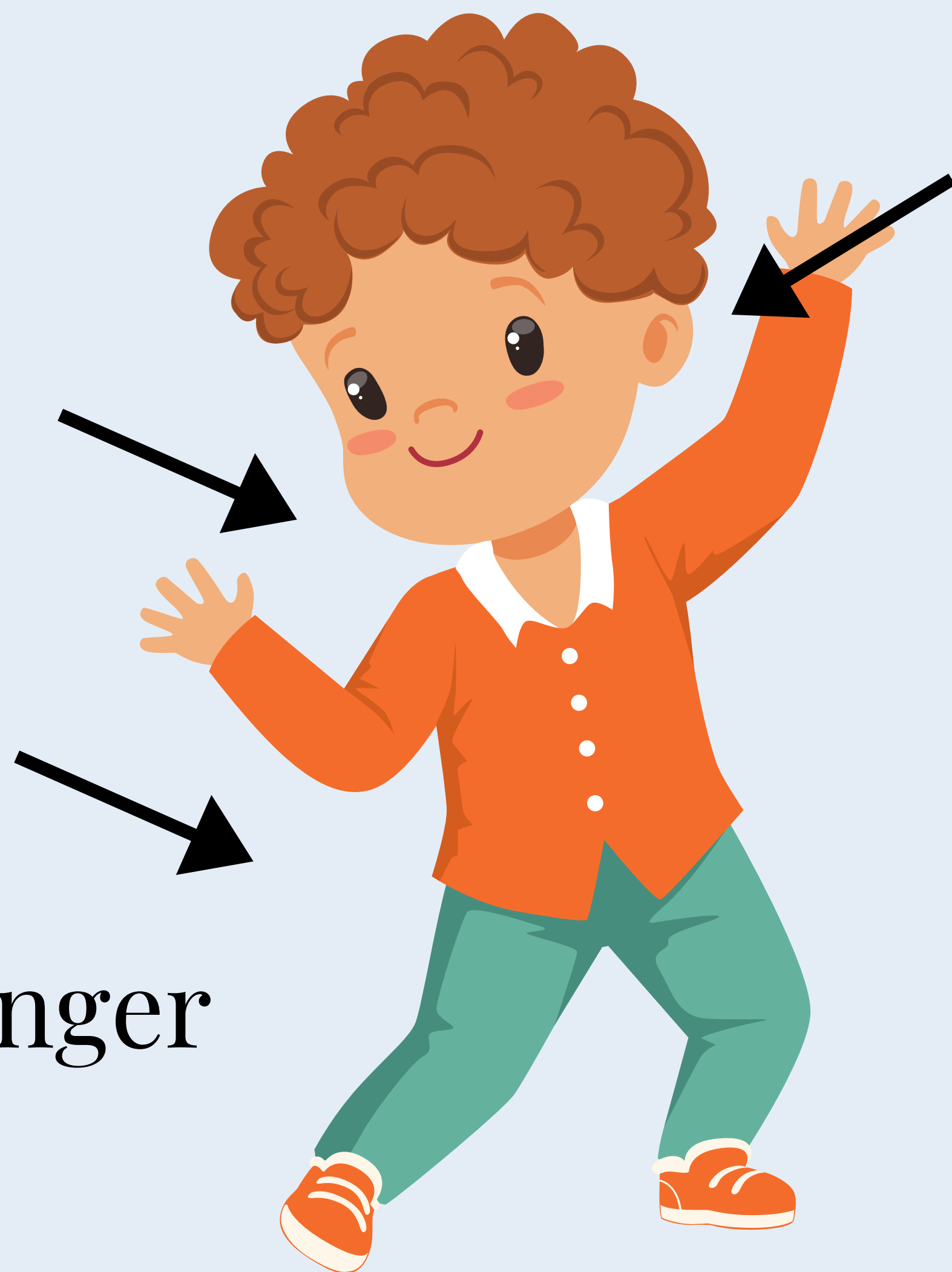
kids are kids, and they may end up with minor cuts, scrapes or bruising on bony areas of the body commonly associated with falls including knees, shins, elbows and foreheads. However, there are other bruises and marks that may indicate child abuse.

**T** torso

**E** ears

**N** neck

**4** years of age or younger



and any bruising anywhere on a baby that is not taking steps or pulling up should be reported.

# HOW TO TAKE ACTION

1. **Stay calm and conversational** if you notice suspicious bruising on a child.
2. **Document what you see and hear** this includes size, color, and shape of the bruising and what the child and parent/guardian say. You can ask general questions such as "What happened there?" "Did an adult see that happen?"
3. **Refrain from asking specific questions or jumping to conclusions.** Professionals with appropriate training will handle the investigation
4. **Make the report.** If you suspect that child abuse or neglect has taken place call the Montana Child Abuse Hotline at 1(866) 820-5437.

Adapted from material by The Face It® Movement, an initiative led by Kosair Charities in the state of Kentucky. For more information visit their website at <https://faceitabuse.org/>

