

ICA POLICY STATEMENT ON

Child Care

The International Chiropractors Association recognizes that infants suffer many birth traumas including traction, rotation and lateral flexion of the head relative to the thorax. With the use of forceps, such forces can be extreme (Towbin, 1969, Developmental Child Neurology). Forces of traction, rotation and lateral flexion, etc. sustained by the cervical spine when the skull is used as a lever during delivery, have been shown to sublunate the atlanto-occipital and atlanto-axial joints (Gutmann, G., 1987, Manuelle Medizin).

It is also recognized that day-in, day-out trauma is a continual part of childhood life which can create spinal misalignment and aberrant motor function.

Asymmetrical development is extremely rare in fetuses (Farfan, 1973), but is actually a developmental process of growth due to asymmetrical stresses on growing tissues. Abnormal posture and spinal misalignment cause abnormal stresses, strains, compression, tension, etc., on vertebral structures, para-spinal tissues, the pelvis and lower extremities during development which may lead to permanent structural change and spinal malformation, e.g., scoliosis. The ICA recommends the earliest possible evaluation, detection and correction of chiropractic lesions (subluxation) in children, especially infants, to maximize the potential for normal growth and development.