



## RNICU Cuddler Program

Our Cuddler program uses hospital-trained volunteers to provide babies with therapeutic talk and touch when parents are not able to be in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Cuddlers may rock, hold, sing and read to soothe babies. This additional interaction and human touch can lead to faster weight gain, shorter hospital stays and improved social, emotional and physical development.

***As a parent, you can feel assured that:***

- Physicians and/or nurses decide when a baby might benefit from a Cuddler.
- Cuddlers are experienced hospital volunteers that receive extensive specialized classroom and bedside training to prepare for their interaction with NICU babies.
- Cuddlers maintain strict hand washing, infection control procedures and adhere to departmental practices and policies while in the NICU.
- Your confidentiality is maintained at all times.

If you have questions about the Cuddler program or if you do not want your baby to participate in the Cuddler program, please speak with your baby's nurse.