A story about Health Families New York

Mom, Dad and their 10-month-old son are a Healthy Families New York family. Mom and Dad were both in their early 20’s when they began the program; the child is a very happy, healthy baby. In the early stages of visitation, Dad was seldom home for visits because of his work schedule, but the FSW was aware that Mom was keeping all handouts and sharing them with the father. His work schedule changed, so he began to be regularly involved. Parent-child interaction between Mom and baby and between Dad and baby is excellent, with lots of play, laughing, teaching, and reading. There is a great “dance” that goes on when they are together. Dad was observed playing with a 19-month-old baby girl from another family. He was holding her under the armpits, and “flipping” her. She was enjoying this immensely, and was laughing very loudly as they played together. The baby was watching his daddy play with the other baby, and he wanted to play as well. He crawled over to his father, and raised his arms to be picked up and flipped. The Dad looked down at him, put the little girl down and gave her a toy, picked up his son and said to him, “Daddy can’t flip you like I did her. Your brain isn’t developed enough yet to be tossing you around.” Dad picked up an appropriate toy for his son, winked, and said, “Healthy Families taught me that”!