“Every time you give a parent a sense of success or of empowerment, you’re offering it to the baby indirectly. Because every time a parent looks at that baby and says ‘Oh, you’re so wonderful,’ that baby just bursts with feeling good about themselves.”
- T. Brazelton
WHAT IS THE S.E.N.S.E. PROGRAM?
The Substance Exposed Newborn Safe Environment (SENSE) program provides support for families after the birth of an infant that was exposed to drugs or alcohol during the mother’s pregnancy.
The SENSE program is provided by a team of supportive people, including:
• Family Connections Consultant (FCC)
• Arizona Families F.I.R.S.T. (Families In Recovery Succeeding Together) (AFF) provider
• Early child development program home visitor
• Registered Nurse (RN)

HOW DO THESE SERVICES BENEFIT ME AND MY FAMILY?
The goal is to keep your infant in your home while you learn about child development and parenting, and succeed in your recovery from substance use. All of the team members will spend time with you and your family, working toward goals you set together. The team members will communicate with each other frequently to coordinate services, and will communicate with your DCS Specialist about your family’s strengths, needs, and progress.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS CONSULTANT
Your family will be assigned a Family Connections Consultant who will visit you in your home. The FCC will meet with you to complete an assessment, which will include answering a series of questions. Together, your family and the FCC will create a plan describing your family’s goals and the ways in which the FCC will help you reach those goals.
The FCC will meet with you 1 to 2 times per week, for one hour each, over 150 days. If needed, services can continue for 90 days at a time.
The FCC connects your family to services so you can meet your family’s day-to-day needs, which can include utility, rent or childcare assistance, emergency food or clothing, household furniture and supplies, connection to mental or behavioral health services and supports, and much more, depending on your family’s needs.
The FCC assists with strengthening families in the following areas:
• Social Support
• Family Functioning
• Family Resources
• Child Well-Being
• Parenting Attitudes and Behaviors
• Managing Parenting Stress

REGISTERED NURSE (RN)
The SENSE RN visits your home to assess your baby’s development and overall health. The RN can make recommendations for health and child development services, if needed.

ARIZONA FAMILIES F.I.R.S.T.
Arizona Families F.I.R.S.T is a substance abuse treatment program that strengthens independence, stability, self-sufficiency, and recovery from chemical dependency. You will complete an assessment to determine the services that will best assist you in your recovery.

Arizona Families FIRST Services can include:
• Substance use education and awareness classes to learn about the effects of substance use on your family
• Recovery Coach to provide mentoring and support from someone who has walked in your shoes and succeeded in recovery
• Outpatient or inpatient treatment to include individual or group counseling sessions
• Recovery maintenance services to help you connect with the community to build supports for sobriety and prevent relapse
• Case management to address any barriers to your success and connect you to other services you may need
• Random drug and alcohol testing

EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM HOME VISITOR
There are several free and voluntary early child development home visitation programs that can help pregnant women and families of newborns in Arizona. The home visitor will meet with you 1 to 2 times per week, depending on your family’s needs. Your family may continue to participate in these programs after your DCS case has closed and up to your child’s 5th birthday.
The home visitor focuses on strengthening your family during the critical first years of your child’s life. Home Visitors can help with:
• Linking your family with community organizations, health care, child care, and housing
• Providing you with emotional support and encouragement
• Teaching and supporting appropriate parent-child interaction and discipline
• Providing your child with periodic developmental assessments and referrals if delayed
• Encouraging self-sufficiency through education and employment
• Providing your family with child development, nutrition, and safety education