



## CPSC Sleep Warnings: Message Idea Testing Focus Group Discussion Guide

Objective: To conduct focus groups with parents and grandparents to determine which message idea(s) is/are most effective at increasing adherence to infant sleep product warning labels. Findings will support the refinement and enhancement of warning label copy that will ultimately be tested in a copy testing survey. Results of these phases of research will ultimately help CPSC effectively convey critical information about product warnings.

### NOTES TO REVIEWER:

This discussion guide is not a script and therefore will not be read verbatim. The moderator will use these questions as a roadmap and probe as needed to maintain the natural flow of conversation. Question probes are *italicized*.

Moderator instructions are highlighted in yellow.

### Session Overview: Total time—90 minutes

#### SECTION I: Introduction and Icebreaker (3.5 min.)

The interviewer will explain the purpose of the focus group, present the ground rules, and allow participants to ask any questions.

#### SECTION II: Infant Sleep Safety: Baseline Knowledge and Awareness (8 min)

Moderator asks participants questions to get a sense of their baseline awareness, knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about infant sleep safety and associated warning labels.

#### SECTION III: Message Idea Testing (50 min.)

Moderator presents ideas to participants in a randomized order and facilitates discussion around initial reactions, message idea comprehension, relatability, memorability, and intentions.

#### SECTION IV: Message Idea Comparison (10 min.)

Moderator asks participants questions to help them determine which of the ideas they perceive to be most effective.

#### SECTION V: Imagery Activity (15 min.)

Moderator asks participants to complete an activity in which they will select a warning label idea and write down any words or phrases they think best fit within this idea, as well as depict any imagery they associate with it.

#### SECTION V: Closing (3.5 min.)

Moderator ensures that all questions are answered, and all comments have been heard.

## Section I: Introduction and Icebreaker (3.5 min.)

Thank you so much for coming today. I appreciate you taking the time to talk to me. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'll be moderating this group. I work for a company called Fors Marsh Group, which is a private research company based in Arlington, VA.

I am conducting this group on behalf of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, but I do not work for them, so I have no stake in how you respond.

The purpose of this group is to get your feedback on some potential messaging strategies for sleep product warning labels.

Before we get started, I would like to review a few ground rules:

- There are no wrong answers. Our whole purpose for being here is to hear what you honestly think, so please speak up, especially if what you have to say is different than what someone else is saying. You may represent what a lot of other people who aren't here think.
- We are not here to come to agreement, and we recognize that you all may have different perspectives on the issues we discuss. And that's OK! Please keep an open mind as we talk today and respect each other's opinions.
- We are audio and video recording this discussion, that way, I don't have to worry about writing everything down. These audio recordings will be used to create transcriptions of the focus group to be analyzed for our report; however, we will not be including any names or other identifying information in the transcripts and the recordings will be deleted once the transcripts are created.
- Everything we talk about here is confidential; your individual responses will not be linked back to you in any way and your name will not be associated with anything you say in our reports. On that note, we ask that you (1) only use your first names during the group today and (2) not discuss anything we talk about today outside of this group. Does anyone have any questions?
- Your participation is voluntary. This means that you do not have to answer a question if you do not wish to and that you may stop participating at any time. Also, you do not have to disclose any information that you are uncomfortable sharing. If someone shares something personal or an opinion that you disagree with, we ask that you please remain respectful of one another, even when voicing your own differing

opinions. At the end of today's session, we will provide some resources to you for your own information.

- If you are in an area with background noise, please remember to mute yourself whenever you are not speaking to prevent any disruptions during the focus group. Please speak one at a time. You can raise your hand with the button at the bottom of your screen as well if you have a thought while someone else is talking. We'll see that you've raised your hand, and we will get to you.

Now, I'd like to kick us off with some introductions. As I call out your name, I ask that you introduce yourself and tell us your favorite thing to do with your [child/grandchild]. **[Probe on reasons for favorite thing to do with child/grandchild]**

## Section II: Infant Sleep Safety: Baseline Knowledge and Awareness (8 min.)

As I mentioned, today we are going to talk about infant sleep safety warnings. To kick off our discussion, I'd like to do a couple of exercises with you all.

- What comes to mind when I say, "infant sleep products"?
  - What infant sleep products do you typically use for your infants?
    - During naps? At nighttime?
- What comes to mind when I say, "infant sleep safety"?
  - What guidelines or recommendations are you aware of?
  - Where have you heard about these?
- What comes to mind when I ask you to think of warning labels related to infant sleep products?
  - What warning labels are you aware of? What is included in them?
  - Where do you typically see warning labels?
  - Which parts of warning labels do you think are most effective?
    - Which instructions do you typically follow in the warning labels?
  - Are there warning labels you don't believe?

Great, thanks for all your input. This leads us into what the major part of our day today is going to be about—assessing strategies for the best ways to develop warning labels. For the purposes of today's discussion, I'm going to show you a few examples of warning labels that might be seen on or attached to an infant sleep product. This way we will all be on the same page moving forward. **[Moderator shares screen with picture of warning label.]** Can everyone see the warning label clearly? Great, so for the purposes of today's discussion, when I say warning label, this is what I am generally referring to. Please

take a minute to look these over. [After a few minutes, moderator to stop sharing warning label on screen]



### Section III: Message Idea Testing (50 min.)

So today, we are here to test out some different ways that infant sleep product warning labels may be developed in the future.

I am going to show you written descriptions of a few different ideas (or, communication approaches) and ask for your feedback to determine which you feel would be the best starting place for developing a warning label. Please keep in mind that what I am going to show you are merely written descriptions of messaging strategies/approaches and don't represent the actual words that you might see on a warning label. Think of this as the big idea behind the warning label. With that in mind, we ask that you try to provide us feedback on the concepts overall and not get too bogged down evaluating specific words or small details.

Let's start with the first idea we are going to discuss today. I am going to share my screen to show the first idea. It is labeled **Idea [X]**. Can everyone see **Idea [X]** clearly? Great, I am going to read through the idea aloud and you can follow along.

[Reads through the first message idea]

Initial Reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are your initial thoughts about this idea?</li> <li>• What did you like about this?</li> <li>• What did you dislike about this?</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [IF NEEDED]: For example, did it make you feel confused, neutral, confident, hopeful, or uncomfortable?</li> </ul>
Main Point/Take Away	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is this idea trying to say?</li> <li>• To what extent does this idea match your existing knowledge about infant sleep safety?</li> <li>• In your opinion, how informative is this idea?</li> <li>• What, if anything, is confusing or unclear about the idea?</li> </ul>
Relatable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How relevant does this idea feel to you?</li> <li>• What would you change to make this feel more relevant to you?</li> </ul>
Believable/Compelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How true or believable is this idea? What are some reasons you feel that way? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What, if anything, would you change or add to make it more believable?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How compelling is this idea? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are some reasons you feel that way?</li> <li>• What, if anything, would you change or add to make this idea more compelling?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How meaningful is this idea to you? What are some reasons you feel that way?</li> </ul>
Grab Attention/Memorable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How likely is it that this idea would grab your attention? How so? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How easy would it be for you to not pay attention to this idea?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How likely would you be to remember this idea? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What about it would stick with you?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Segment-Specific Probes	<p>Parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For those who have other children—how do your past experiences influence your thoughts on this idea?</li> <li>• Are there any elements of this idea that are new or surprising?</li> </ul> <p>Grandparents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What elements of this idea are familiar to you? In what way?</li> <li>• How similar or different are elements of this idea to messages you heard when you were a new parent?</li> </ul>
Intentions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would this idea make you more or less likely to follow the instructions on the warning label?</li> <li>• How much, if at all, did this idea change the way you think about sleep safety?</li> <li>• How much, if at all, did this idea make you want to learn more about infant sleep safety guidelines? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Where would you go to look for more information?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How likely would you be to share this idea with others? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How would you share it?</li> <li>▪ What would you share?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Idea-Specific Probes</li> </ul>	

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Grade</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I'd like you grade this concept A/B/C/D/F in terms of "appeal" to you - the more you like it, the higher the grade, just like grades from school. The less you like it, the lower the grade.</li></ul> <p>Raise your hand if you give this concept an "A". [Count number of hands out loud] For what reasons did you give this concept that grade? [REPEAT FOR ALL GRADES]</p>
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[Moderator repeats Section III again for each message idea]

## Section IV: Comparison of Ideas (10 min)

Now, I'd like for us to compare the different ideas that we walked through together. **[Share screen that has all ideas in one view]** Thinking about all of the ideas you saw today, I am now going to ask you a series of questions that will require you to compare all of the ideas on the screen. Before that, I'd like you to first take a minute to review all of the ideas on the screen and think about which idea motivated you the most to follow the instructions on a warning label and which one motivated you the least.

1. Which idea motivated you the most to follow the instructions on a warning label? For what reasons?
2. Which idea motivated you the least? For what reasons?
3. Which idea was your favorite? How come?
4. Are there any ideas we should definitely not use? For what reasons?
5. Which idea will stick with you the most? For what reasons?
6. Which idea will stick with you the least? For what reasons?

Outside of the ideas we shared, are there other ways that you think warning labels could be developed that could motivate people like you to pay more attention to them and follow the instructions on them?

## Section V: Imagery Activity (15 min.)

As you may have guessed from the ideas that we just walked through, our goal is to understand how to better develop and present sleep product warning labels.

I'd like your input on how you envision these ideas coming to life. I'd like you to imagine that we are going to be developing a new warning label to place on an infant sleep product, for the sake of consistency, let's say a [product]. I have a series of questions that I would now like to discuss with you as we go through the process of bringing these ideas to life.

- I want everyone to think about the idea you previously reported motivated you the most to follow the instructions on a warning label. Everyone have an idea in mind? Great. Now, I want you to think about any words/phrases you think would fit well with this message idea. If you were thinking about creating the warning label for the idea you have in mind, what words or phrases would be on it? What would you want the introduction sentence to say? **[Probe to understand which idea they have in mind and what specific words/phrases they would put with it]**
- Now that you have an idea of what words and phrases you would like on the warning label, where would you place this warning label on the [product] (e.g., if this idea was eventually used to develop a warning label, where should the warning label go?)



- Last but not least, what colors do you think should be included on in the label? For what reasons?
  - What images or visuals do you think should be included to help convey the message of the warning label? For what reasons?

## Section VI: Closing (5 min.)

[TIME PERMITTING: MODERATOR FALSE CLOSE] I appreciate your feedback. Before we wrap up, I am going to consult with my colleagues to see if there is anything I missed to ask or if there are any follow-up questions. [ASK ANY ADDITIONAL PROBES]

[THANK AND CLOSE] Thank you for taking the time to speak with me today and participate in this focus group.

Do you have any questions for me or is there anything that you would like to share that you didn't have the chance to share yet?

Before you go, we have a couple resources here about infant sleep safety if you are interested in learning more.

Thank you again for your participation. Enjoy the remainder of your day.

## Appendix A: Messaging Ideas

### Negative Consequences

1. Death (/serious injury/suffocation/strangulation) to your child can occur if you do not follow all of the instructions on the warning label.
2. X number of children have died (/suffered from serious injury /strangulation/suffocation) as the result of not following all of the instructions on the warning label.

### Positive Consequences

3. Keep your child safe. Follow all of the instructions on the warning label.

### Self-Efficacy

4. You can protect your child by following all of the instructions on the warning label every time you use the product.

### Social Norms

5. Responsible parents like you follow all of the instructions on the warning label to keep their child safe.