## BABYWEARING CAN SUPPORT PERINATAL MENTAL HEALTH

Rates of perinatal mental ill-health are significant among new parents. Up to 50% of sufferers never seek support and there is a 50% risk of recurrence in subsequent pregnancies. Slings can help.

Many mothers are affected by perinatal depresssion and anxiety that often begins during pregnancy

Many fathers struggle with their mental health too, especially if they have a partner who is unwell

Soft touch, holding, stroking, sight and scent release oxytocin in caregivers

Oxytocin reduces
cortisol release and
can help reduce stress
and anxiety in both
baby and caregiver

Holding and gentle movements reduce agitation, bringing calm and reducing stress for both ©CARRYING MATTERS

Babies cry less when held and carried safely and comfortably

Slings give caregivers their hands back to get on with their lives

Many babies sleep better when safely held in a sling

Feeling able to calm babies with a sling can build parental confidence

Knowing baby is safe and close can reduce anxiety

Close contact promotes secure attachment and bonding, a feeling of safety and connection for both

Comfy carriers can bring freedom to get out of the house for walks and social activities



Carrying aids communication, helping caregivers recognise cues early and respond

Slings can make caregivers feel good too!

carryingmatters.co.uk/maternal-mental-health