

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment.

Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff, and others on the premises.

9 Childcare practice procedures

9.10 Prime times – Sleep and rest time

Sleep and rest times are key times in the day for being close and promoting security. Younger children will need to sleep but older children do not usually need to. No child is made to sleep.

During the Covid-19 outbreak every effort is made to place cots and sleeping mats at least two metres apart.

Children over 2yrs old

- Children sleep on rest mats and where possible have their own personalised bedding. Where this is not possible, all bedding is washed after each use.
- Children have a suitable place or bag to store clothes, shoes and a special toy, book, or comforter for sleep. This is labelled with a photo name tag so they can identify their bag (if used).
- Nappies changed and heavier clothing removed.
- Hair accessories that may come lose or detach are removed before sleep/rest time.
- A separate area is made quiet, perhaps with soft music playing and blinds drawn.
- Children are settled by their key person and comforted to sleep. Key persons may gently stroke or pat children.
- If children fall asleep in-situ it may be necessary to move or wake them to make sure they are comfortable, they are not left to sleep in a buggy or bouncy chair.
- Sleeping children are regularly checked at least every ten minutes and are within sight and/or hearing of staff

Young children

- Young children sleep on rest mats and have their own personalised bedding. Where this is not possible, all bedding is washed after each use.
- Young children each have a place to put their clothes and shoes in, and in which they keep any special toy, book, or comforter that they need for sleep.
- Nappies are changed and heavier clothing is removed.

- Hair accessories with parts that may come lose or detached and pose a choking hazard are removed before sleep/rest time.
- A separate area of the room is made as quiet as possible, perhaps with some soft music playing and curtains drawn.
- Young children are settled by their key person. They are soothed to sleep. Key persons may stroke or very gently pat children.
- Sleeping children are supervised within sight and/or hearing of staff at all times.

Further guidance

Safer Sleep for Babies (Lullaby Trust) www.lullabytrust.org.uk/safer-sleep-advice