

Ballina River Street Children's Centre

Sleeping and Rest Requirements Policy

All children have individual sleep and rest requirements that need to be met. Children need a comfortable and relaxing environment to enable their bodies to rest. This environment must be safe and well supervised to ensure children are safe, healthy and secure in their environment.

National Quality Standard (NQS)

| Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety | | |
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| 2.1.1 | Wellbeing and comfort | Each child's wellbeing and comfort is provided for, including appropriate opportunities to meet each child's needs for sleep, rest and relaxation |
| 2.2 | Safety | Each child is protected |
| 2.2.1 | Supervision | At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard |

| Quality Area 3: Physical Environment | | |
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| 3.1 | Design | The design of the facilities is appropriate for the operation of a service |
| 3.1.2 | Upkeep | Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained |

Education and Care Services National Regulations

| Children (Education and Care Services) National Law NSW | |
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| 81 | Sleep and Rest |
| 103 | Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair |
| 105 | Furniture, materials and equipment |
| 110 | Ventilation and natural light |
| 115 | Premises designed to facilitate supervision |
| 168 | Education and care service must have policies and procedures |

PURPOSE

Our Service(BRSCC) will ensure that all children have appropriate opportunities to sleep, rest and relax in accordance with their individual needs. We have a duty of care to ensure children are provided with a high level of safety when sleeping and resting and every reasonable precaution is taken to protect them from harm and hazard. In meeting the service's duty of care, it is a requirement that all educators implement and adhere to this policy to ensure we respect and cater for each child's specific needs.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, teachers/educators, staff, management and visitors of the Service(BRSCC).

IMPLEMENTATION

Children have different sleep, rest and relaxation needs. Children of the same age can have different sleep patterns, which nominated supervisors and teachers/educators need to consider within the service(BRSCC). As per Standard 2.1 (element 2.1.1) of the National Quality Standard, each child's comfort must be provided for and there must be appropriate opportunities to meet each child's sleep, rest and relaxation needs.

Our Service(BRSCC) defines 'rest' as a period of inactivity, solitude, calmness or tranquility, and can include a child being in a state of sleep. Considering the busy and energetic nature of children's day, we feel that it is important for children to participate in a quiet/rest period during the day in order to rest, relax and recharge their body. Effective rest strategies are important factors in ensuring a child feels secure and safe in an early childhood environment.

Effective rest and sleep strategies are important factors in ensuring a child feels secure and safe in an early childhood environment. Our Service(BRSCC) will consult with families about their child's individual needs, ensuring they are aware of the different values and parenting beliefs, cultural or opinions associated with sleep requirements.

Management will ensure:

- Reasonable steps are taken to ensure that the needs for sleep and rest of children being educated and cared for by the service(BRSCC) are met, having regard to the ages, developmental stages and individual needs of each child.
- There are adequate numbers of mats and bedding available to children that meet Australian Standards.
- Sleep and rest environments is safe and free from hazards
- That areas for sleep and rest are well ventilated and have natural lighting.
- That supervision will be kept clear to ensure safe supervision of sleeping children.

A Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible Person will:

- Take reasonable steps to ensure that the needs for sleep and rest of children being educated and cared for by the service(BRSCC) are met, having regard to the ages, development stages and individual needs of the children.
- Negotiate sleep and rest routines and practices with families to reach agreement on how these occur for each child at the Service(BRSCC).
- Ensure they receive information and training to fulfil their role effectively, including being made aware of the sleep and rest policies, their responsibilities in implementing these, and any changes that are made over time.
- Ensure the child's safety is always the first priority
- Ensure children who are sleeping or resting have their face uncovered at all times
- Ensure the sleep and rest environment is free from cigarette or tobacco smoke

Teachers/Educators will:

- Consult with families about children’s sleep and rest needs
- Be sensitive to each child’s needs so that sleep and rest times are a positive experience
- Ensure that mats are clean and in good repair
- Ensure mats are wiped over with warm water and neutral detergent or vinegar between each use
- Ensure that bed linen is clean and in good repair
- Ensure bed linen is used by an individual child and will be washed before use by another child
- Arrange children’s mats to allow easy access for children and staff
- Create a relaxing environment for sleeping children by playing relaxation music, reading stories, cultural reflection; turning off lights and ensuring children are comfortably clothed.
- The environment is tranquil and calm for both teachers/educators and children
- Sit near children encouraging them to relax and listen to music
Remember that children do not need to be “patted” to sleep. By providing a quiet, tranquil environment, children will choose to sleep if their body needs it.
- Maintain adequate supervision and maintain educator ratios throughout the sleep period
- Assess each child’s circumstances and current health to determine whether higher supervision levels and checks may be required
- Communicate with families about their child’s sleeping or rest times and the service(BRSCC) policy regarding sleep and rest times
- Respect family preferences regarding sleep and rest and consider these daily while ensuring children feel safe and secure in the environment. Conversations with families may be necessary to remind families that children will neither be forced to sleep nor prevented from sleeping. Sleep and rest patterns will be recorded daily for families.
- Encourage children to dress appropriately for the room temperature when resting or sleeping. Lighter clothing is preferable, with children encouraged to remove shoes, jumpers, jackets and bulky clothing.
- Monitor the room temperature to ensure maximum comfort for the children
- Ensure that each child’s comfort is provided for
- Ensure there are appropriate opportunities to meet each child’s need for sleep, rest and relaxation
- Ensure that children who **do not** wish to sleep are provided with alternative quiet activities and experiences, while those children who **do** wish to sleep are allowed to do so, without being disrupted. If a child requests a rest, or if they are showing clear signs of tiredness, regardless of the time of day, there should be a comfortable, safe area available for them to rest (if required). It is important that opportunities for rest and relaxation, as well as sleep, are provided.
- Consider a vast range of strategies to meet children’s individual sleep and rest needs
- Respond to children’s individual cues for sleep (yawning, rubbing eyes, disengagement from activities, crying etc)
- Acknowledge children’s emotions, feelings and fears
- Develop positive relationships with children to assist in settling children confidently when sleeping and resting

Continued:

Source

- Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority
- Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2015.
- ECA Code of Ethics.
- Guide to the National Quality Standard.
- Guidelines for SIDS and Kids Safe Sleeping in Childcare Facilities
- SIDS & Kids Safe Sleeping Kit – www.sidsandkids.org
- Standards Australia – www.standards.org.au
- The Children’s Hospital at Westmead – Safety factsheet – Cots and Cot Mattresses, <http://kidshealth.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/sites/kidshealth.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/files/safetyfactsheets/cots-and-cot-mattresses.pdf>
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) – www.accc.gov.au - Cot safety PDF
- Australian Consumer Law 2011 - Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.
- The NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011 & the NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011
- Safe sleep and rest practices from October 2017 (ACECQA)
- Revised National Quality Standards
- Childcare Centre desktop – www.childcarecentredesktop.com.au

Review

| Policy Reviewed | Modifications | Next Review Date |
|-----------------|--|------------------|
| December 2017 | Merged Rest Time Policy with Sleeping Requirements Policy. Changes made to comply with changes to National Regulations and revised National Quality Standard and safe sleeping practice. | February 2018 |