

09 Early years practice procedures

09.9 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.

Children over 2yrs old

- Children sleep on rest mats.
- Nappies are 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 curtains 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.
- 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 always supervised within sight and/or hearing of staff.

Further guidance

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

