

# Meadows and Districts Kindergarten Safe sleep and rest procedure

## How to use this template

This template was developed to support compliance with the National Regulations, including regulations 84A, 84B, 84C and 168(2)(a)(v), which relate to requirements for services to have policies and procedures for sleep and rest, and to undertake risk assessments.

This template was designed to be used by services that are in scope of the department's [safe sleeping and resting for infants and young children procedure](#) (department's procedure). Local procedures must be consistent with, and read together with, the department's procedure. Pre-populated content addresses matters required by the department's procedure and the National Regulations.

This template is optional and may be tailored to ensure it relates to the specific context of the service (ie if the service does not use wraps, slings or carriers, the content relating to that equipment can be removed). You can also refer to [ACECQA guidance and templates](#) to inform the content to include in your local procedure.

Instructions in this template are in grey boxes and should be removed once drafting is finalised.

## Overview

Meadows and Districts Kindergarten is required to follow the Department for Education's [safe sleeping and resting for infants and young children procedure](#) (department procedure) which aims to ensure appropriate opportunities are provided to meet each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation.

Meadows and Districts Kindergarten Safe sleep and rest procedure must be read alongside the department procedure. Together, these procedures address the requirements in regulation 168 of the National Regulations for education and care services to have sleep and rest procedures in place for children.

A copy of this procedure and the department procedure will be kept in the policy folder in the staff office.

## Procedures

Your procedures need to be clear and specific. For example, if procedures provide that sleep checks must be undertaken regularly, such as every 10 minutes, the procedures need to be specific about what is required for a check, how it is to be recorded and where documentation will be kept. Specific step-by-step procedures for separate age groups (a 'how-to' guide) should also be included where relevant.

The following procedures address matters required under regulations 84B and 84C of the National Regulations. An extract of those regulations is at Appendix A.

## How children will be protected from risks

National Regulations to address in this section include:

- 84B(a) – how children will be protected from risks identified in a risk assessment
- 84B(f) – how sleep and rest practices are consistent with current health guidelines on best practices to ensure safety of children during sleep and rest
- 84C – requirements for risk assessment

To protect children from risks during sleep and rest, educators will follow the 'safe sleep and rest practices' outlined in the department procedure.

To ensure educators are aware of and follow the safe sleep and rest practices:

- The site leader will ensure that the department's safe sleep practices are incorporated in induction and training for educators, including for casual and relief staff
- The site leader will ensure that educators engage in refresher training every year, which will cover safe sleep and rest practices and risk assessment requirements

### Risk assessment

A Risk assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the department procedure, which addresses requirements under regulation 84C of the National Regulations. Risk assessments will be conducted using the [template for sleep and rest risk assessment](#).

Site leaders will ensure that, as soon as practicable after a risk assessment is completed, any necessary updates to this procedure will be made.

A copy of all completed risk assessments will be kept by the service.

## Meeting sleep and rest needs

National Regulations to address in this section include:

- 84B(b) – meeting sleep and rest needs
- 84B(d) – how requests from families and cultural preferences are considered
- 84B(h) – location and arrangement of sleep and rest areas

To ensure children's individual sleep and rest needs are met, educators will:

- Provide opportunities for sleep and rest throughout the daily learning program
- Provide opportunities for families to communicate their child/ren's sleep and rest needs upon children enrolment to the service and throughout their time at kindergarten
- Provide a range of different of restful/quiet activities for children to engage in during relaxation time to accommodate the wants and needs of all children

Opportunities for rest and relaxation will be provided by:

- Including a scheduled relaxation time after lunch every day
- Allowing children to choose to quietly rest and engage in mindful/restful directed activities OR engage in quiet play within the supervised area

## Meeting health care needs

National Regulations to address in this section include:

- 84B(c) – how health care needs of individual children are met
- 84B(d) – how requests from families and cultural preferences are considered

To ensure children's health care needs are met:

- as required by the department procedure, educators will ensure that, for a child who has a medical condition or additional needs which relates to their sleep or rest, a health care plan authorised by a medical practitioner is in place which outlines the safest sleep and rest practices to be implemented
- families will be asked to answer questions about their child's health care needs through questions in enrolment documents

## Partnership with families

National Regulations to address in this section include:

- 84B(d) – how requests from families and cultural preferences are considered
- 84B(m) – communication of the sleep and rest policies and procedures to a parent

To implement the procedures for facilitating 'a collaborative partnership with families' and for addressing 'requests to vary sleep practices', as set out in the department procedure:

- upon enrolment, educators will inform families of the service's sleep and rest policy and procedures and will provide families information about safe sleep recommendations
- the service's sleep and rest procedures and policy will be made available to families in hard copy
- educators will make a record of any parent communication concerning requests to vary sleep practices, and decisions made in relation to such requests
- site leaders will ensure that educators have appropriate training to address families' requests which are contrary to the safe sleep guidance

To implement the department's procedures for 'promoting and modelling safe infant care practices':

- the site leader will ensure safe sleeping information is available for families, including by providing resources in different languages

## Supervision and monitoring

National Regulations to address in this section include:

- 84B(e) – supervision and monitoring, including method and frequency of checking, and documentation of sleep and rest periods
- 84B(j) – management of potential hazards in sleep and rest areas and on a child during sleep and rest periods

To ensure all children are appropriately supervised and monitored, educators will follow the 'supervision and monitoring' procedures in the department procedure.

To implement the department procedure:

- the site leader will ensure that supervision and monitoring requirements for sleep and rest are incorporated into induction and training for educators, including casual and relief staff.

- If a child falls asleep, educators will complete a daily record of sleeping which will include the time the child is checked, and the initial/signature of the educator and inform the child's family
- educators will ensure that playing children are supervised in close proximity to sleeping children to allow supervision of both groups
- educators will monitor children's breathing
- educators will ensure that the physical environment facilitates effective supervision (windows not blocked and adequate space to move around to physically check on individual children)

## Sleep and rest environment

National Regulations to address in this section include:

- 84B(h) – location and arrangement of sleep and rest areas
- 84B(i) – safety and suitability of cots, bedding and bedding equipment
- 84B(k) – physical safety and suitability of environment, including temperature, lighting and ventilation

In developing your local procedures you may wish to refer to:

- Red Nose guidance – [What is a safe room temperature for sleeping baby](#)
- Queensland Government's resource – [Sleep and rest physical environment considerations](#)
- ACCC product safety resource [Your First Steps](#)
- Red Nose [Cot to Bed Safety brochure](#).

To ensure all children are provided with a safe sleep and rest environment, educators will follow the 'providing a safe sleeping environment' procedures in the department procedure.

To implement the department procedures:

- the site leader will ensure that requirements for ensuring a safe sleep and rest environment are incorporated into induction and training for educators
- educators will check the rest space to ensure that:
  - there is adequate lighting of sleep and rest areas to enable effective supervision
  - the area is well ventilated
  - there is adequate space for children to rest without touching or disturbing each other

## Sleep and rest equipment

National Regulations to address in this section include:

- 84B(h) – location and arrangement of sleep and rest areas
- 84B(i) – safety and suitability of cots, bedding and bedding equipment

In developing your local procedures you may wish to refer to:

- Red Nose [Portable or Folding Cots article](#)
- Red Nose [Cot to Bed Safety brochure](#).
- Red Nose [What is a Safe Cot? article](#)
- ACCC information on [Mandatory standard for folding cots](#)
- ACCC information on [Mandatory standard for household cots](#)
- ACCC resource on [Baby product safety and safe sleep](#)
- [Red Nose what is a safe mattress](#) (includes a link to a video resource about testing a mattress's firmness)
- Infant mattress safety information published by the [Education Standards Board](#).

To ensure all children are provided with safe sleep and rest equipment:

- site leaders will ensure that periodic work health and safety checks are undertaken of the physical environment, furniture and resources of the service

- site leaders will check manufacturer standards of sleep and rest equipment upon purchasing, including for cots (which must comply with AS/NZS 2172) and folding or portable cots (which must comply with AS/NZS 2195)

## Prams, pushers and bassinets

From 1 October 2023, the National Regulations prohibit the presence of bassinets on education and care services' premises.

As required by the department procedure, all staff will ensure that prams, pushers, bouncinettes and rockers are not used unsupervised, and are not used as a sleeping environment for children.

The presence of bassinets at the service is prohibited under the National Regulations. All staff will ensure that bassinets are not present at the service for any purpose.

## Reviewing sleep and rest practices

National Regulations to address in this section include:

- 84B(f) – how sleep and rest practices are consistent with current health guidelines on best practices to ensure safety of children during sleep and rest
- 84B(g) – the induction, training and knowledge of educators in relation to best practices for children's sleep and rest

To ensure sleep and rest practices of the service remain current and implement best practices:

- the site leader will ensure sleep practices and environments are reviewed each year or as new information (such as law and regulation) becomes available
- educators will ensure that safe sleep and rest practices and any changes to service procedures are discussed as required

## Training and induction for educators

National Regulations to address in this section include:

- 84B(f) – how sleep and rest practices are consistent with current health guidelines on best practices to ensure safety of children during sleep and rest
- 84B(g) – the induction, training and knowledge of educators in relation to best practices for children's sleep and rest

To ensure best practices and recommendations for safe sleep and rest are met:

- the site leader will ensure that training and induction for educators (including casual and relief staff) covers the requirements in the department procedure and the procedures in this document and will use relevant tools for ensuring compliance (ie checklists)
- the site leader will ensure that training and induction for educators addresses knowledge and understanding of risks of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)
- the site leader will ensure educators are provided with the DfE Safe sleeping and resting for infants and young children procedure to refresh knowledge

## Procedure creation and revision record

Local procedures must be regularly reviewed and maintained to ensure they remain relevant and up-to-date with important developments in evidence-based practices for safe sleep and rest. Any revisions to the policy should be communicated to staff and families, and access to electronic and hardcopies of older versions should be removed.

Duplicate (copy/paste) the below table to record each version change.

Version:	1
Approved by site leader:	Brigitte French
Date of approval:	02/05/2024
Date of next review:	02/05/2025
Amendments(s):	Nil

# APPENDIX A: Extract of regulations 84B and 84C of the National Regulations

## Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011 SI 653)

### **84B Sleep and rest policies and procedures**

The sleep and rest policies and procedures required under regulation 168(2)(a)(v) must address—

- (a) how children will be protected from any risks identified in a risk assessment conducted under regulation 84C
- (b) how the sleep and rest needs of children being educated and cared for by the service are met, including how the ages, developmental stages and the sleep and rest needs of individual children are considered
- (c) how the health care needs of individual children being educated and cared for by the service are met
- (d) how requests from families about a child's sleep and rest and cultural preferences are considered
- (e) supervision and monitoring during sleep and rest periods, including –
  - (i) the method and frequency of checking the safety, health and wellbeing of children during sleep and rest; and
  - (ii) the documentation of sleep and rest periods
- (f) how the sleep and rest practices at the service are consistent with any current health guidelines on the best practices to adopt to ensure the safety of children during sleep and rest
- (g) the induction, training and knowledge of staff who educate and care for children at the service in relation to best practices for children's sleep and rest
- (h) the location and arrangement of sleep and rest areas at the service and how this meets the sleep and rest needs of children being educated and cared for by the service
- (i) safety and suitability of cots, bedding and bedding equipment, having regard to the ages and developmental stages of children who will use the cots, bedding and bedding equipment
- (j) management of potential hazards –
  - (i) in sleep and rest areas; and
  - (ii) on a child during sleep and rest periods
- (k) management of physical safety and suitability of sleep and rest environments (including temperature, lighting and ventilation)
- (l) communication of the sleep and rest policies and procedures to a parent.

## 84C Risk assessment for purposes of sleep and rest policies and procedures

- (1) The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that a sleep and rest risk assessment is conducted in accordance with this regulation—
  - (a) at least once every 12 months; and
  - (b) as soon as practicable after becoming aware of any circumstance that may affect the safety, health or wellbeing of children during sleep and rest.

Penalty: \$2200.

Note - A compliance direction may be issued for failure to comply with subregulation (1).
- (2) a risk assessment must consider the following:
  - (a) the number, ages and developmental stages of children being educated and cared for –
    - (i) by the education and care service; or
    - (ii) in the case of a family day care service, at each family day care residence or approved family day care venue of the service;
  - (b) the sleep and rest needs of children being cared for (including health care needs, cultural preferences, sleep and rest needs of individual children and requests from families about a child's sleep and rest) –
    - (i) by the education and care service; or
    - (ii) in the case of a family day care service, at each family day care residence or approved family day care venue of the service;
  - (c) the suitability of staffing arrangements to adequately supervise and monitor children during sleep and rest periods
  - (d) the level of knowledge and training of staff supervising children during sleep and rest periods
  - (e) the location of sleep and rest areas, including the arrangement of cots and beds within the sleep and rest areas
    - (i) at the education and care service; or
    - (ii) in the case of a family day care service, at each family day care residence or approved family day care venue of the service;
  - (f) the safety and suitability of any cots, beds and bedding equipment, having regard to the ages and developmental stages of children who will use the cots, bed and bedding equipment
  - (g) any potential hazards
    - (i) in sleep and rest areas; or
    - (i) on a child during sleep and rest periods;
  - (h) the physical safety and suitability of sleep and rest environments (including temperature, lighting and ventilation) –
    - (ii) at the education and care service; or
    - (iii) in the case of a family day care service, at each family day care residence or approved family day care venue of the service;
  - (i) in the case of a family day care service that provides overnight care to a child, any risks that the overnight care provided at the family day care residence or approved family day care venue of the service may pose to the safety, health or wellbeing of the child.
- (3) As soon as practicable after conducting a risk assessment under this regulation, the approved provider of an education and care service must make any necessary updates to the sleep and rest policies and procedures.
- (4) The approved provider must keep a record of each risk assessment conducted under this regulation.