

## 09 Early years practice procedures

### 09.10 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.

#### Children over 2yrs old

- Children sleep on rest mats and have clean bedding.
- Children have a suitable place to store shoes and a special toy, book or comforter for sleep.
- 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 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.
- Sleeping children are regularly checked at least every ten minutes and are 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](http://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/safer-sleep-advice)