

## Health & Safety – sleep room



At Clare House we aim to ensure that all children have enough sleep to support their development and natural sleeping rhythms in a safe environment.

The safety of babies sleeping is paramount. We adopt a policy of practice recommended by The Cot Death Society to minimise the risk of Sudden Infant Death. This includes:

- Babies are placed on their backs to sleep, but when babies can easily turn over from the back to the stomach, they can be allowed to adopt whatever position they prefer to sleep
- Babies/toddlers will never be put down to sleep with a bottle to self-feed unsupervised
- Babies/toddlers will be monitored when sleeping using baby monitors and visually checked by staff every 10 minutes.
- When monitoring the staff member will look for the rise and fall of the chest, and if the sleep position has changed.

We provide a safe sleeping environment by:

- Monitoring the room temperatures
- We use a baby monitor to listen in to the room this is to be with a staff member at all times.
- Using clean light bedding/blankets and ensuring babies are appropriately dressed for sleep to avoid overheating
- All bedding for children attending more than one session will have designated bedding, which is kept in a named bag.
- Each individual bedding bag is kept high on a designated peg which is out of reach. Individual bedding bags are not to be hung over cots due to risk of chocking.
- Only having Safety approved cots (or other suitable sleeping equipment, i.e. pods or mats) that are compliant with British Standard regulations, and mattress covers are used in conjunction with a clean fitted sheet
- Not using cot bumpers or cluttering cots with soft toys, although comforters will be given where required
- Keeping all spaces around cots and beds clear from hanging objects i.e. hanging cords, blind cords, drawstring bags
- Ensuring each baby/toddler is provided with clean bedding
- Should a baby fall asleep while being nursed by a practitioner, they will be transferred to a safe sleeping surface to complete their rest
- Having a no smoking policy.
- Children are not placed in cots if they exceed the weight limit.
- Dummy clips are removed for sleep.
- Hair clips and Hair bands are removed for sleep
- Bibs are removed for sleep
- Necklaces/chewy/teething beads will be removed for sleep
- All electrical cables are risk assessed and out of reach of children.
- All sockets have safety covers
- All room decorations are securely fixed and out of reach of children.
- Finger covers on the doors
- Chest of draws: The draws must be kept shut at all times.
- Individual risk assessments may take place depending on child's sleeping needs and requirements to keep them safe.

A Unique child information sheets is filled out by the parent when their child starts settling into the nursery and this is updated at timely periods to review.

We recognise parent/carer(s) knowledge of their child with regards to sleep routines and will, where possible, work together to ensure each child's individual sleep routines and well-being continues to be met. However, staff will not force a child to sleep or keep them awake against his or her will.

Staff will discuss any changes in sleep routines at the end of the day and share observations and information about children's behaviour when they do not receive enough sleep.