

Warren Shire Council Vacation Care



REST TIME POLICY

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that “*all children have the right to relax and play*” (My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia, p. 4). Our Vacation Care Service will cater for the needs of individual children who may require a rest during a busy day.

Adopted: 3rd December 2020 – Res No: 244.12.20

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.1	Health	Each child’s health and physical activity is supported and promoted.
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		
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	
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 services must have policies and procedures
176	Time to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority

RELATED POLICIES

Family Communication Policy	Respect for Children Policy
Interaction with Children, Family and Staff Policy	

PURPOSE

Our Vacation Care Service will ensure that all children have appropriate opportunities to rest and relax in accordance with their individual needs. Our Service has a duty of care, to ensure we respect and cater for each child’s specific needs.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors of the Service.

IMPLEMENTATION

‘Children have different sleep, rest and relaxation needs. Children of the same age can have different sleep patterns that Nominated Supervisors and Educators need to consider within the Service. 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.’

(ACECQA)

Our Vacation Service defines ‘rest ’as a period of inactivity, solitude, calmness or tranquillity, and can include a child being in a state of sleep. Considering the busy and energetic nature of a child’s day, we feel that it is important for children to participate in a quiet/rest period during their time at Vacation Care if required, to rest, relax and recharge their body.

Our Service 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.

THE APPROVED PROVIDER OR NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL:

- Take reasonable steps to ensure that children's needs are being met by giving them the opportunity to rest, having regard to the ages, developmental stages and individual needs of each child.
- Ensure the area for rest is well ventilated and has natural lighting.
- Ensure safe supervision of children whilst they rest their bodies.

THE APPROVED PROVIDER, NOMINATED SUPERVISOR, EDUCATORS, STAFF MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS WILL:

- Consult with families about children's rest needs.
- Maintain adequate supervision and ratios throughout the rest 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 rest time and observed requirements.
- Encourage children to dress appropriately for the room temperature when resting. 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.

EDUCATORS WILL ENSURE THAT:

- If a school age child requests a rest, a designated area for the child to be inactive and calm, away from the main group of children is provided.
- The designated rest area may include a cushion, bean bag or comfortable seat in a quiet section of the care environment.
- Sleeping children are monitored at regular intervals.
- Faces of sleeping children are uncovered when they are

SOURCE:

ACECQA. (n.d.). Safe sleep and rest practices: <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/resources/information-sheets/safe-sleep-and-rest-practices>

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Department of Education and Training (2019). My Time Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia.

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).

Guide to the National Quality Standard. (2020).

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

The NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011

The NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011

POLICY REVIEWED	September 2020	NEXT REVIEW DATE	September 2021
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REVIEW: