

Bertram Hawker Kindergarten: Safe sleep and rest procedure



WE BELIEVE

- Learning to relax our minds and bodies is an important life skill.
- When children are calm, focused and alert they are best able to learn.
- That children are capable of developing strategies to self-regulate.

RATIONALE

It is important that young children can rest and relax when needed. Children choose to rest or relax in different ways and at different times. Sometimes children will fall asleep at kindergarten. It is important that children's health and safety is maintained during periods of rest, relaxation and sleep. We provide safe spaces for children to rest, regulate and sleep throughout the day.

Bertram Hawker Kindergarten educators will:

- Explicitly model and teach the children interoception techniques (the internal sensory system in which the internal physical and emotional states of the body are noticed, recognised/identified and responded to).
- Explicitly teach the children about the connection between our 'Thinking and our Feeling Brain' using the Hand Brain model.
- Ensure that relaxation/mindfulness is planned as part of our daily routine and used as needed throughout the day.
- Ensure that learning experiences support both restful and active play.
- Encourage children to listen to and get to know their body's needs and support children to meet those needs.
- Ensure that the environment a child selects for rest or relaxation is safe and that obvious hazards are removed.
- Ensure the planning and placement of educators across our service enable adequate supervision of sleeping and resting children.
- Use the rainbow room as a designated sleep area.

If a child falls asleep at preschool:

- The other children will be asked to respect the child's space and to be aware of the sleeping child.
- An educator will remain within sight and hearing distances of the sleeping child and make sure that there are no hazards around the child.
- The educator who is within sight will be responsible for checking on the sleeping child every 10 minutes, including checking the child's breathing and the colour of their skin.
- We will inform the child's family of the length and time of the sleep.
- Pillows and blankets used by child will be put in the wash bag after use.

We welcome parents to talk with staff regarding our Sleep and Rest Policy. It will be shared with all new staff and families. It is available in our induction folder and on our website.

Approved & Reviewed: June 2026