



POLICY REGARDING SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome is defined as “The sudden unexpected death of an infant less than one year of age, with onset of the fatal episode apparently occurring during sleep...” Around 200 babies die suddenly and unexpectedly every year in the UK. Since parents and carers have been following the risk reduction advice, the number of babies dying has fallen significantly.

(Source: NHS Choices)

AIM:

To provide a procedure for staff to follow in the unlikely event that such an occurrence happens within the nursery.

Within the nursery we can take the following precautions:

- Place babies on their back to sleep and not on their front or side.
- Do not let babies get too hot – it is important to ensure that the baby’s head is not covered when put to sleep as babies lose excess heat from their head.
- Make up the cot so that the baby’s feet are at the bottom of the cot to prevent them wriggling down under the covers.
- Do not put babies to sleep near a radiator or in direct sunshine as they may overheat.
- Do not put the baby’s head directly onto the mesh on the cot mattress.
- Ensure that the cot mattress is in good condition, and not damp or soiled.
- Coracles may be used for babies aged 6-20 months only

Procedure to be followed if a child has stopped breathing:

- One member of staff to begin resuscitation.
- One member of staff to phone ambulance.
- Immediately notify manager in charge.
- Manager to phone parents as soon as possible.
- Manager to telephone police.
- Manager to inform Ofsted and RIDDOR

This policy will be reviewed in April 2023