

Sunflower Montessori Infant Program Safe Sleep Policy

Adopted September, 1, 2013

The Sunflower Montessori Infant Program has been carefully designed to meet the needs of each infant at every developmental stage in a safe, Montessori inspired environment. Your infant's safety and happiness is important to us.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the "sudden death of an infant under one year of age, which remains unexplained after a thorough investigation." Child care providers can provide safe environments for infants that help lower the risk of SIDS. Additionally, the Montana Department of Health and Human Services has set forth rules that we are required to follow and which can be found in detail at ARM 37.95.1005. In order to provide a safe sleeping environment for your child, Sunflower Montessori, Inc has adopted the following Safe Sleep Policy.

Sleep Position

- Infants shall be placed on their back on a firm surface to reduce the risk of SIDS, unless the parent has medical documentation ordering otherwise.
- Infants will not be placed on their side or stomach to sleep.
- While infants will always be placed on their back to sleep, when an infant can easily roll from back to front and front to back, they can remain in the position they prefer to sleep.
- Infants who use pacifiers will be offered their pacifier during nap time.
- Pacifiers will be cleaned and checked for tears and other signs of wear daily. Parents will be asked to provide replacement pacifiers on a regular basis.

Sleep Environment

- Each infant will have his or her own pack and play or bassinet for sleeping. The surface of which is cleanable by detergent.
- Infants will not routinely be allowed to sleep in a car seat, infant swing or other infant apparatus.
- Only the mattress, a tight fitting sheet, a pacifier (if the infant uses one) and a sleep sack will generally be allowed in the crib during the infant's nap. All other items will be removed when the infant is sleeping.
- Parents shall provide their infant with a sleep sack, and two tight-fitting pack and play sheets. These will be sent home periodically for washing.
- Bedding, when not in use, will be stored in the child's personal belongings bin.
- If a blanket is used, the infant's feet will be placed at one end of the pack and play or bassinet. The blanket will be tucked in at the sides and feet and the blanket will be tucked no higher than the infant's chest. Please do not send a blanket, we require a sleep sack
- Infants who use sleeping bags will be placed in those prior to sleep, rather than a blanket.
- The infant room will be a comfortable temperature and adequate ventilation for sleeping.

Supervision

- Staff will monitor the environment for temperature to ensure the nap room remains comfortable during nap time (approximately 68-75 degrees).
- Infants will be visually checked on periodically while napping.
- Infants will always be within hearing distance of at least one staff member during nap time.
- When an infant is awake they will have supervised tummy time.
- While awake, the use of baby holding devices such as bouncy chairs, jumpers, exersaucers, etc, is limited to those which best encourage skill development and exploration.

Training

- Caregivers will receive training on safe sleep practices approved by the Montana Dept. of Health and Human Services.
- Caregivers who have not yet completed the training shall be supervised by a caregiver who has successfully completed the program then approved by the Department.
- All caregivers will sign an acknowledgment indicating they have read and understood this policy.

Parent will receive two copies of this policy with their enrollment packet. One is to sign and return, the other is to keep. A copy of the policy is also available online at www.sunflowermontessori.com. Please sign and return one copy of this document to Katie Watterson along with other enrollment documentation.

Infant's Name _____ DOB _____

Signed by _____ parent or guardian

_____ parent or guardian

Date _____