



POLICY ADVISORY

Policy Title: Supervision of Preschool Children During Naptime (2024)

Policy Number: FO-24-19

Release Date: 11/6/2024

Effective Date: 1/1/2025

Policy Link: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/nap-time-supervision-of-children-policy/download>

OVERVIEW

The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is committed to supporting child care providers in addressing periodic staffing challenges. As alternative staffing strategies to help program administrators cope with brief staff coverage challenges due to unforeseen circumstances or the need for a short break, this policy allows two assistant teachers or one teacher-qualified staff person to supervise a preschool classroom during naptime, under certain conditions.

Building on the naptime policy EEC released in November 2023 (Supervision of Children Over 2.9 During Naptime), this update adds clarifying details regarding the requirements preschool programs must meet to utilize these alternative staffing strategies.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all licensed center-based child care programs.

KEY UPDATES

Alternative staffing strategies outlined in this policy may only be used by a child care program in a preschool classroom when:

- The classroom has no more than 20 children.
- All children in the classroom are preschool age.
- Both assistants or the teacher-qualified staff person supervising naptime are CPR and first aid certified.
- Emergency coverage staff are available *on site* in case help is needed.
- Use of this policy is accounted for in the program's staff schedule and emergency evacuation plan.

- Classrooms are not combined for naptime.
- This policy is not used for more than 60 minutes within any one day, per classroom.
- All program staff are informed about the planned use of the policy.

A program may use this policy in more than one preschool classroom at the same time *only* if the number of classrooms using the policy does not exceed the emergency coverage staff available on site to assist the classrooms if called upon.

During licensing visits, a program administrator utilizing the alternative staffing strategies in this policy must present their adjusted staff schedule to the licensor. They must also explain how they employ these naptime supervision practices and their adjusted evacuation plans.

A violation of these requirements will be considered a violation of the staffing ratios established in 606 CMR 7.10.

OBSOLETE

Supervision of Children Over 2.9 During Naptime (2023).