

# What to do if a child is found not breathing

red  
nose

## Emergency Response 1



### Initial response if a child is found not breathing

- Stay Calm
- Alert other staff members
- Phone "000" immediately
- Commence resuscitation until the ambulance arrives
- Remove other children from area

1

#### Staff calling the ambulance are advised to state

- Resuscitation of the infant/child in progress
- Name of the infant/child and parents
- Medical history known about the infant/child
- Name, Address and Telephone number of the centre.



2

#### Telephone the parents as soon as you are able

- Ask them if they are okay to speak with you as you have some urgent information about their child.
- Advise them their child has stopped breathing, an ambulance has been called and resuscitation is underway.
- Recommend that the parents have someone else drive and/or accompany them to the centre.
- If the infant/child is transported to the hospital before the parents arrive, instruct them to go straight to the hospital.



3

#### When the First Responders and parents arrive

- A staff member should meet the ambulance officers at the front of the centre and guide them to the infant/child.
- Police will also attend the center and should be met by staff.
- Allocate a staff member to meet and support the parent/primary carer upon arrival.



4

#### Other considerations

- Remove other children from the room and keep them safe and calm.
- It is appropriate in an emergency to operate with minimum staff to children ratios in order to allow other staff to provide extra assistance if required.
- If the parents arrive at the service before the Police, then a staff member or ambulance officer must always remain in the presence of the child and parents.
- For legal reasons parents must not be left alone with the child until the Police are present.

Red Nose Safe Sleep Advice Hub

1300 998 698 (during business hours AEST/AEDT)

[rednose.org.au/safesleep](http://rednose.org.au/safesleep)

If you or your staff need support, contact  
Red Nose 24/7 Bereavement Support Line 1300 308 307

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# What to do if a child dies suddenly and unexpectedly



## Emergency Response 2



To protect evidence, do not disturb the area

1

**Police will attend the centre as part of standard procedure:**

**They will need to speak to the staff assigned to the room:**

- This is to give information to the Coroner and is necessary for all sudden and unexpected deaths regardless of age.

**They will organise for the child to be taken from the Centre:**

- Parents can discuss with Police their preferences; however, the Coroner's Office usually has to approve these requests.

2

**Once the child/family leave the centre:**

**Notify the parents of the other children present in the centre that there has been an unexpected incident in the centre:**

- The most senior staff member, (or committee member/ management representative) should make the calls.

**Give no personal details in relation to the family**

- Encourage families to collect their child as soon as possible.

3

**Ensure educators, other staff, children and families are provided with the opportunity to debrief, receive counselling, adequate information and strategies to work through their grief.**

**As soon as possible gather staff for a debriefing session:**

- Advise staff of the Red Nose 24-hour bereavement support line 1300 308 307.
- Information and referrals can be made at Red Nose Grief and Loss website at [rednosegriefandloss.org.au](http://rednosegriefandloss.org.au).
- Advise educators and other staff that they should not individually speak to the media about the incident.
- Provide multiple opportunities for debriefing about the incident.

4

**The National Law requires the Regulatory Authority be notified following the death of an infant/child or any serious incident occurring at an Approved Service.**

**Contact your Regulatory Authority:**

**Contact the Children Services Authorised Officer:**

**Approved Provider of your service:**

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