

**If at any time your child is not sleeping through the night, or he/she doesn't seem ready to go to bed and you feel it is because he/she sleeps too long here, don't hesitate to mention it to me and I can try waking him/her up a little earlier each day.**

**Infants will be allowed to follow their own patterns of sleeping and waking.**

### **Toys from home**

**Merri's Home Daycare furnishes a wide variety of appropriate playthings. I ask that no toys be brought to daycare from home. Anything brought will be put up safely until the child is picked up. This policy is for the concern of all children in my care. One of the behaviors I encourage is respect for others. This includes sharing. Often times children have a hard time sharing toys they bring with them from home. Also, since children share toys anything from home would have the potential to be damaged or misplaced. The only exceptions to this policy are:**

- \* a special blanket or stuffed animal to be used at rest time. This will be put up and only used at the appropriate time.**
- \* show and tell. At times we will have a show and tell period. I will inform you ahead of time when this will occur.**

### **Behavior goals**

**At Merri's Home Daycare I try to stress two main patterns of behavior: respect for other people and respect for property. As a result I do not allow hitting, pushing, biting, kicking or pinching other children. Obscene language is not allowed. I also stress that they treat material possessions (both mine and theirs) with respect.**

**To reinforce these behaviors I use the following procedures. Rules are first explained, then followed up with plenty of reminders and lots of positive reinforcement. For children 3 and under, redirection and time outs are the only methods of discipline used when it is necessary. In a time out situation the child will be separated from the group. There is no time out chair in my home as I feel it is humiliating to a child to be sent to the bad chair. The child will sit in an appropriate place for one minute per year of age, not to exceed five minutes. When time out is up, I will talk to the child and try to explain why that behavior was inappropriate. The child is encouraged to give the offended party an apology and assist in fixing whatever went wrong, to the best of their ability.**

**Children under the age of 3 years will not be given time out but will be corrected with redirection.**

**If something of a more serious nature or a persistent behavior should occur that is of concern to me, I will need to discuss it with you so that we can jointly decide on a course of action that is followed at home and in my care. If the problem can not be resolved arrangements must be made for the child to receive care elsewhere.**

**Children are never punished for lapses in toilet training or for accidents (spilled milk for example). In either situation I will have the child help me clean up if possible, not for punishment, but to help teach responsibility.**