

Blanket Rule

March 24, 2022

Q My toddler's blanket and pacifier were left in the car before Shabbos. He won't sleep without them and refuses to use any but his own. What may I do?

A The Rama (O.C. 328:17) permits *amirah lenachri*, instructing a non-Jew, to cook for a child who lacks food to eat. The needs of a child are akin to those of a *choleh she'ain bo sakanah* (a patient with a non-life-threatening illness), in whose case Chazal permitted *amirah lenachri*. The age at which a child is no longer subject to this leniency is a matter of debate among the *poskim*, but all agree that a toddler is young enough (Piskei Teshuvos *ibid.*).



In addition to *amirah lenachri*, all other *melachos deRabanan* are waived for a *choleh she'ain bo sakanah*, e.g., carrying without an eiruv in an area that is not a *reshus harabim de'Oreisa*. A *shinui* should still be used (Mishnah Brurah 328:57).

The Chazon Ish (59:4) clarifies that the Rama's license to instruct a non-Jew to cook for a child applies even if food will be available soon and the child will suffer only temporary discomfort.

Although the Rama speaks of food preparation, many *poskim* understand him to permit all of a child's needs, but some authorities (Tehilah LeDovid O.C. 308) limit his leniency to food preparation. Contemporary *poskim*, accept the lenient view (Shmiras Shabbos Kehilchasah 37:2).

Sleep deprivation can cause a toddler extreme discomfort, so this is treated as a need. You may instruct a non-Jew to open your car and retrieve the items.