

# Nursery Childcare Policy - Dummies

**Relating to:** Nursery

**Document reference:** SHCPolNur27

**Document owner:** Nursery Manager

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**Date of next review:** 25 January 2025

## **Policy Statement**

Babies and young children spend lots of their time making sounds and exploring their mouths and voices before they begin to use words, in doing so they are not only practising and developing the skills needed for speech, but they are also encouraging other people to notice them and communicate with them. Children who suck dummies throughout the day make fewer sounds, gain less experience of using their voices and hear less language from adults around.

## **Aims**

- The use of dummies will be discussed with parents when completing their child's individual daily routine.
- Dummies will only be allowed to be used if a child is upset, for comfort, if the child is new to the setting and is settling in or if it is used as part of a child's sleep routine. When a child is settled, the dummy will be put back in the designated place.
- For babies less than 12 months of age dummies will be sterilised daily and stored in individual, sealed containers. Older children's dummies will be kept in their own bag and will be rinsed in warm water before the child uses it.

## **Staff Should**

- Comfort the child and explain why they are not allowed the dummy in a sensitive and appropriate manner.
- Distract children's attention with other activities.
- Offer other methods of comfort such as toy, teddy, etc.
- Ensure parents are aware of why dummies are inappropriate for toddlers and suggest ways in which they can be weaned off them.
- Offer parent's support.

## **Scope of the Policy**

This policy applies to all staff, parents & children of the childcare facility.

## **Associated Policies**

- Safeguarding & Child Protection
- Equality & Inclusion
- Managing Children's Behaviour
- Health & Safety
- Special Educational Needs
- Visits & Outings
- Communications

- Parental Participation
- Intimate Care
- Nappy Changing
- Key Person & Settling In
- Admissions & Registration
- Medication & Ill Health
- Working in Partnership with Other Agencies
- Transition
- Supervision
- Staff Behaviour
- Intimate Use
- Education & Curriculum
- Biting

### **Access to the Policy**

This policy will be issued to all Childcare Practitioners and made available to the users of the Childcare Facility. A copy of all policies & procedures will be kept in the Managers office and in the reception area for parents/carers to access.

### **Post Holder to Contract**

Director of Student Services.