

The Use of Dummies and Bottles

The nursery appreciates that dummies and bottles can be a source of comfort when a child is upset and may form part of a child's sleep routine. Nursery will endeavour to support the use of dummies solely at this time. Bottles will not be given to any child which has fluids inside to be used as a sleeping aid.

We would however like parents to consider the following as to why we aim to limit their usage at other times:

Dummies and bottles can contribute to a delayed communication development.

Babies and young children spend lots of time making sounds and exploring their own 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 in the world to notice them and communicate with them. Children who suck dummies through the day make fewer sounds, gain less experience of using their voices, and hear less language from adults around them.

If toddlers are allowed to continue to suck a dummy and talk with it in their mouths, there is also a risk that the child will learn distorted patterns of speech because the teat prevents normal movements at the front of their mouth. These patterns may be difficult to change later on. Dental issues may also arise later on in childhood.

The nursery will support both parent and child from being gradually weaned from the use of a dummy, it is recommended between the ages of 6-12 months, or bottle if this is their normal routine. The emotional needs of the child will be taken into account at all times.

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that dummies are replaced regularly and bottles are kept clean.

The nursery reserves the right to withhold usage of dummies that have perished or damaged in any way and will not give children unclean bottles.

Date of Policy	Signed by	Review of Policy
September 2015		September 2022