

The Oaks Nursery Dummy Policy

Babies and young children spend a great deal of time experimenting with their voices: creating sounds, babbling, squealing, cooing, making words and exploring their own mouths long before they begin to use 'words.' This is how babies practice and develop the skills required for speech and language. They are also learning about communication: beginning to realise that using their voices can attract attention and bring them closer to the people around them through various interactions.

Studies have shown that children who suck dummies throughout the day make fewer sounds, gain less experience using their voices, and hear less language from adults around them.

If toddlers continue to suck a dummy whilst developing the skill of talking, there is also a risk that the child will learn distorted patterns of speech, as a result of the teat preventing normal movements at the front of their mouth. These patterns may be difficult to change as the child gets older.

Oaks Nursery believes that proactive steps can be taken to ensure children develop the best speech and language possible. We therefore intend that our practitioners and parents will work together in order to give the best start to the babies and children in their care. Therefore;

We recognise that a dummy can be a source of comfort when a child is upset, and that they often form part of child's sleep routine. Consequently, the key person will encourage the babies and young children in their care to only use their dummy at these times. Taking into account the children's emotional needs, the key person can sensitively support the process of phasing out a dummy at any time, at the request of the parents.

Adopted on: October 2011

Review date: October 2012

Signed on behalf of the Oaks Day Nursery:

Name: Chris Comper

Job Title: Nursery Manager

The Oaks Nursery

Parent / Carer,

Please sign below to confirm that you have read and understood The Oaks Nursery Dummy Policy:

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Key Person's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please note that your child's key person will be happy to discuss this policy with you and answer any questions or concerns you may have.