

The Old School House Nursery Use of a Dummy Policy

Babies and young children spend lots of time making sounds and exploring their own mouths and voices. It is quite usual for young children and babies to "mouth" objects, exploring the texture and feel of them in their mouth, which helps them to develop a greater understanding of the world around them. Young children also learn about communication by babbling and gaining a response from the adults who care for them. Babbling and crying are ways in which young children communicate their needs and when these early types of communication are listened to and responded to, children are encouraged to continue to interact and communicate with both adults and other children.

Children who suck dummies throughout the day or during the day, make fewer noises, gain less experience of using their voice, and the resulting interactions with other children and adults - it is therefore likely that they share less exchange with adults and this can prohibit their language development.

If toddlers are allowed to continue to suck a dummy and talk with it in their mouths, there is also a significant risk that the child will learn distorted patterns of speech, because the teat prevents normal movement of the tongue and the front of their mouth. Continuous use of a dummy also shapes young mouths to accommodate the dummy, which can also lead to speech and language difficulties as the child grows.

We are committed to being pro-active about helping children in our care to become competent talkers and to help them communicate with the world using well developed speech and language. To support this, all staff speak with the children and also listen to them too, during play and all aspects of the care we provide.

The Old School House team will therefore practice the following policy to ensure that children are given the greatest opportunity to develop normally:

We understand that a dummy can be a source of comfort for young children when a child is upset and that a dummy may form part of a child's sleep routine, it is the policy at this setting that we will only encourage your child to use a dummy during these periods.

Your child's key person / buddy will work with you / parents / carers to phase out the use of dummies and later, bottles sensitively, taking into account the children's emotional needs and wellbeing.

Each child who uses a dummy must have a named pot provided from home, which will be used to store the dummy hygienically when it's not in use at nursery.

Please complete print and complete the attached form from our web page, or ask for a copy to inform us about your wishes during the time your child is cared for at The Old School House.

I, the undersigned parents/ guardians of _____

Have read and understood the dummy policy which is in place at TOSH and I will ensure that I liaise with my child's key person / buddy to discuss my child's use of a dummy to ensure that we work collaboratively to support my child's opportunities for speech and language development.

Signed:

Dated:

Signed:

Dated

If appropriate both parents/ guardians should read and sign this statement to ensure we are all working collaboratively. (You may also wish to bring this policy to the attention of other family members who spend time caring for your child).