



Welbourne Primary Academy Nursery
Goodwin Walk
Werrington
Peterborough
PE4 6NR

Tel: 01733 304377

Manager: Tina Page
Email: tina.page@wel.education

Dummy Policy

Babies and young children spend lots of 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 also encourage other people in the world to notice them and communicate with them. We have found from experience that 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 movement at the front of their mouth these patterns may be difficult to change later on.

Within a nursery setting where a number of children have dummies it can be hard to ensure that dummies remain hygienic. Dummies in the baby room will be stored in a named pot, sterile for under 1 year olds. We ask parents to ensure that the dummy provided is not the only one the child has- as they can break or children transport and they can be easily lost.

In the belief that proactive steps can be taken to ensure children develop the best speech and language possible and that germs are not spread. Staff will work together with parents to implement the following policy:

Although a dummy can be a source of comfort when a child is upset and may form part of a child's sleep routine it is our policy that the key person will encourage young children to use dummies only at these times. The key person will work with parents/carers to phase out dummies sensitively taking into account the child's emotional needs. Adults will gently remove the dummy when the child is engaged in play and distracted- this promotes positive interactions. Children 2 years+ will be encouraged to put their dummy in their bag on arrival.

Practitioners are to be mindful of dummy use when a child is unwell. For example when feeling sick due to choking hazard or if the child has a blocked nose it this can affect their breathing if they have a dummy in their mouth.

We do NOT allow dummy clips due to choking and hygiene reasons.

This policy was reviewed at a meeting of the Welbourne Academy Nursery Management Group

Held on 12.10.23

Signed on behalf of the nursery T.Page