



Dummy Policy

Arrangements for Review:

Diane Daniels is responsible for the implementation of this policy and conducting regular reviews. This policy was adopted in March 2011 and will be **reviewed in March 2012**

Agreed by Seashells Steering Group:

Print Name Date

Agreed by Board of Children and Families Ltd:

Print Name Date

Babies and young children spend most of their 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.

In the belief that proactive steps can be taken to ensure children develop the best speech and language possible in child care settings, and that parents and child care professionals can work together, Seashells and Sheerness Neighbourhood Nursery will practice the following:

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 for children in the Nursery the key person will encourage them to use a dummy only at these times. **The key person will work with parents to phase out dummies and bottles sensitively, taking into account children's emotional needs.**

Seashells Children's Centre staff will also work with parents in the same way to help them to phase out dummies and bottles sensitively, again taking into account children's emotional needs.