



## **The Butterfly Rooms (Incorporating Woodlands) LTD**

Tank Hill Road | Purfleet | Essex | RM19 1TA

Registered Charity Number: 1148068 | Ofsted Number: 453859 | Company Number: 7984150 | *Limited by Guarantee*

Telephone Number: 01708 863 737

### **Weaning Policy – The Butterfly Rooms**

#### **Policy Statement**

**At The Butterfly Rooms, we are committed to supporting babies in their transition from milk to solid foods (weaning) in a safe, responsive, and developmentally appropriate way.**

**We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) requirements for safeguarding, health, and promoting positive outcomes for children.**

#### **Aims**

- **To ensure babies are introduced to solid foods safely and at the appropriate stage of development**
- **To work in partnership with parents/carers**
- **To promote healthy eating habits from an early age**
- **To reduce risks associated with choking, allergies, and food hygiene**

#### **EYFS Links**

**This policy supports:**

- **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements (Food and drink)**
- **Health (3.45–3.48) – promoting good health, preventing spread of infection**
- **Partnership with parents (3.72–3.73)**

#### **Starting Weaning**

- **Weaning will usually begin around 6 months of age, unless otherwise advised by a healthcare professional**
- **No baby will be weaned without parental consent and guidance**
- **Staff will follow each baby's:**
  - **Developmental readiness (e.g. sitting, interest in food)**
  - **Individual routine**

- A written weaning plan will be agreed with parents before starting.

### Partnership with Parents

We will:

- Work closely with parents to ensure consistency between home and nursery

Respect:

- Cultural preferences
- Religious dietary requirements
- Family routines

Share daily updates on:

- Foods offered
- Quantities eaten
- Reactions or concerns

Parents must provide:

- Information on allergies or intolerances
- Consent for introducing new foods

### Safe Weaning Practices

To ensure safety:

- Babies will always be supervised while eating
- Staff will be trained in:
  - Paediatric first aid
  - Choking prevention

Food will be prepared according to the baby's stage:

- Smooth puree
- Mashed foods
- Soft finger foods

We will:

- Follow safe seating practices (e.g. appropriate highchairs with straps)
- Encourage self-feeding where developmentally appropriate

### Allergies and Intolerances

- We follow a strict allergy management procedure
- New foods will be introduced one at a time
- Any reactions will be:

- Recorded immediately
- Reported to parents
- Care plans will be followed for children with diagnosed allergies

### **Food Hygiene and Preparation**

We adhere to EYFS food safety standards:

- All food preparation areas will be kept clean and hygienic
- Hands will be washed before and after handling food

**All food will be:**

- Freshly prepared or safely stored
- Labelled with the child's name
- Bottles, utensils, and equipment will be:
  - Sterilised where required
  - Cleaned between uses

### **Recording and Monitoring**

Staff will:

- Maintain daily feeding records
- Monitor each child's progress and readiness for next stages
- Share observations with parents regularly

### **Inclusion and Equality**

We will:

- Ensure all children have equal access to appropriate foods
- Adapt practices to meet:
  - Cultural needs
  - Medical requirements
  - Developmental differences

### **Staff Responsibilities**

Staff must:

- Follow this policy at all times
- Maintain up-to-date training in:
  - Food hygiene
  - Safeguarding
  - First aid
- Report any concerns immediately

## **Review**

**This policy will be reviewed annually or in line with EYFS updates or changes in best practice.**

This policy was adopted by

The Butterfly Rooms Ltd

On

01<sup>st</sup> July 2026

Date to be reviewed

01<sup>st</sup> July 2027

Signed on behalf of the Management

committee

A.Thompson

Name of signatory

Miss Aimee Thompson