Use of Dummies in Nursery Policy

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| EYFS: 1.1-1.6 |

At **Bombini Tribe Day Nursery** we recognise that a dummy can be a source of comfort for a child who is settling and/or upset.

We also recognise that overuse of dummies may affect a child’s language development as it may restrict the mouth movements needed for speech. As babies/toddlers grow, they need to learn to move their mouths in different ways, to smile, to blow bubbles, to make sounds, to chew food and eventually to talk.

Our nursery will:

* Discuss the use of dummies with parents as part of the child’s individual care plan
* Suggest a cuddly toy/blanket can be used for comfort if a child is really upset (for example, if they are new to the setting or going through a transition)

When discouraging the dummy staff will:

* Comfort the child and, if age/stage appropriate, explain in a sensitive and appropriate manner why they do not need their dummy
* Distract the child with other activities and ensure they are settled before leaving them to play
* Offer other methods of comfort such as a toy, teddy or blanket
* Explain to the child they can have their dummy when they go home or at sleep time.

We will also offer support and advice to parents to discourage dummy use during waking hours at home and suggest ways which the child can be weaned off their dummy through books and stories (when appropriate).

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| **This policy was adopted on** | **Signed on behalf of the nursery** |
| *1 September 2021* | *A black wire in a shape of an egg  Description automatically generatedSally Ward* |
| *A black text on a white background  Description automatically generatedRachel Hussell* |
| *\*All policies are reviewed and updated (where necessary) on an annual basis.* |