

WHITLEY LODGE UNDER FIVES

DUMMY POLICY

Statement of intent

Our pre-school recognises that dummies are valued by some parents and carers as a part of their child's sleep routine or as a comforter when they are upset.

We are advised by North Tyneside Speech and Language Therapy Department that the long term use of a dummy (beyond the child's first birthday) and /or sucking a dummy during the day can:

- Slow down a child's speech and language learning
- Permanently affect the shape of teeth and gums
- Cause problems with swallowing and dribbling
- Prevent full range of tongue movement
- Cause tummy upsets and infections

We are committed to promoting the health and language development of children in our setting so we will work with families to 'ditch their dummies'.

Aim

We aim to work in partnership with parents and carers to reduce the use of dummies sensitively, taking into account children's emotional needs. We will also inform parents and carers about the possible results of long term dummy use (see above)

Methods

- We will ensure that parents and carers are aware of why the long term daytime use of dummies is inappropriate and suggest ways in which their child may be weaned off them
- We will encourage children to keep their dummies in a dummy pot whilst at pre-school and explain that they can have it later.
- We will try to limit use to set times, e.g. if the child is tired or upset
- We will distract children from using their dummies by involving them in activities or providing other forms of comfort, cuddly toys or a blanket.
- We will advise parents that they can obtain further help and information from North Tyneside Speech and Language Therapy Department on 0191 297 9031