



7.4 Use of dummies

Policy Statement

At Ladybird Forest Pre-School we recognise that a dummy can be a source of comfort for a child who is settling and/or upset, and that it may often form part of a child's sleep routine. We also recognise that overuse of dummies may affect a child's language development as it may restrict the mouth movements needed for speech.

Procedures

Our Pre-School will:

- Discuss the use of dummies with parents as part of the child's individual care plan.
- Only allow dummies for comfort if a child is really upset (for example, if they are new to the setting or going through a transition) and/or as part of their sleep routine.
- Store dummies in individual hygienic dummy boxes labelled with the child's name to prevent cross-contamination with other children.
- 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).

When discouraging the dummy staff will:

- Make each child aware of a designated place where the dummy is stored.
- 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 that their dummy is in their bag and will go home with them.



Ladybird Forest Pre-School

Relevant Ladybird policies:

- 7.1 Promoting positive behaviour

This policy was reviewed by	Amanda Sanders - Pre-School Manager Victoria Grimes - Admin Manager Rebecca McGough - Chair
Date of review	13 th January 2024
Date for next review	13 th January 2025
Chair's signature	