

Razzy's Daycare & Nursery



Razzy's Daycare & Nursery
Est. 2025

Use of Dummies in Nursery Policy

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Introduction

At Razzy's Daycare & Nursery, we recognise that dummies can offer comfort and reassurance to babies and young children, particularly when they are settling into the nursery, experiencing separation, or preparing for sleep. We are committed to supporting children's emotional wellbeing while also promoting healthy speech, language, and oral development. This policy outlines how dummy use is managed safely, hygienically, and sensitively within the setting and should be read alongside the Sleep and Rest Policy and the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy.

Developmental Considerations

While dummies can help soothe children, we are mindful of the potential impact that prolonged or frequent dummy use can have on oral development. Excessive use may limit the range of tongue, lip, and jaw movements needed for babbling, making sounds, chewing, and forming early speech. Babies and young children benefit from opportunities to explore facial expressions, respond to sounds, and practise the quick mouth movements that support clear speech. Our approach balances the comfort a dummy may provide with opportunities for communication and language development throughout the day.

Partnership with Parents

We recognise that decisions about dummy use vary between families and that a dummy may form an important part of a child's routine at home. When a child joins the nursery, we discuss their dummy use with parents as part of their individual care plan. This information is reviewed regularly and updated as the child's needs change. We work

closely with families to ensure consistency between home and nursery and to support children in ways that feel familiar and comforting to them.

Safe and Hygienic Practice

The nursery follows strict hygiene, safety, and safeguarding measures in relation to dummy use. Each child's dummy is stored in a clean, clearly labelled container to prevent cross-contamination. If a dummy falls on the floor or is picked up by another child, it is cleaned or sterilised immediately. Dummies are checked regularly and disposed of if they become worn, damaged, or unhygienic. We do not allow dummy cords, clips, strings, or attachments in the nursery at any time due to the significant choking and strangulation risks, in line with national safe sleep guidance.

Dummies may be used as part of a child's sleep routine where appropriate and in accordance with the Sleep and Rest Policy. Staff remain attentive to dummy use throughout the day and ensure that it does not interfere with a child's ability to communicate, explore, or engage in learning experiences.

Supporting Children to Reduce Dummy Use

Where appropriate and always in agreement with parents, staff may gently support children to reduce dummy use during waking hours. This approach is individualised and sensitive to each child's emotional needs. Children are shown where their dummy is kept so they feel secure knowing it is available when needed. Staff offer comfort, reassurance, and age-appropriate explanations if a child is encouraged to play without their dummy. Engaging activities, positive interactions, and alternative comfort items such as soft toys or blankets are used to help children settle without distress. Children are always reassured that their dummy will be available at sleep times or when they go home.

Working with Parents

Open communication with parents is central to how we manage dummy use. Staff share observations about a child's comfort, communication, and use of their dummy, and parents are encouraged to update us about routines at home. Where families wish to reduce dummy use, we can offer guidance and suggestions, including gradual weaning strategies and the use of age-appropriate books or stories to support the transition. Our

aim is to support families with consistent, nurturing practices that promote both emotional security and oral development.

Monitoring

Key persons monitor each child's dummy use as part of their ongoing care and development. Any concerns relating to hygiene, safety, speech, or wellbeing are discussed promptly with parents and, where necessary, with the management team.

This policy is reviewed annually or sooner if changes in guidance, practice, or internal audits require updates.