**Busy Bodies Child Care Centre Ltd**

**Dummy Policy**

Research indicates that if a child uses a dummy they may have problems with their speech and language development. This may be caused because the dummy;

* Restricts tongue movements which may make a child talk later
* Changes the pattern of tongue movements, making speech sounds unclear.
* Cause a gap between the upper and lower teeth which may lead to a lisp.

We recommend that if a dummy is used then;

* Parents use a flat or orthopaedic dummy.
* Use the dummy as little as possible.
* Remove the dummy when a child is trying to speak
* Try and get ride of the dummy by 12 months.

Within the nursery a dummy will be restricted to:

* Sleep times - if needed
* To comfort a child who is upset - if needed.

This policy will be reviewed annually by all staff.

Updated on ………………………………………….. By …………………………………………………………..

This policy has been read, understood and signed by all the staff.

Signed ………………………………………………….. Signed……………………………………………………….

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