Use of Dummies policy

Introduction and the purpose of our use of dummies policy:

We have introduced a dummy policy to ensure that dummies are used appropriately and effectively, we recognise that some young children use a dummy for comfort, particularly during the early stages of development. While dummies can help soothe children, we aim to support speech, language and oral health by managing their use appropriately.

The prolonged use of dummies can have a detrimental effect on children's oral health and speech and language.

Policy Scope:
This policy applies to the entire organisation including employees and third-party contract staff.

Policy Aims:

-To support social interaction, having a dummy in their mouth for long periods of time made reduce opportunities for children to talk and engage with others.

-To support speech and language skills, prolonged use of dummies can affect the development of speech sounds and the clarity of speech.

-To support good oral health, continuous use may affect the development of teeth and the shape of their mouth.

Our Approach:

We respect that using a dummy is a parental choice and we will continue to work in partnership with parents/carers, and we will follow parents wishes as far as possible, however we will continue to advise parents against prolonged use of dummies.

We will encourage dummy use **only** at nap times and for comfort when a child is upset if distraction and comfort from an adult does not help soothe the child.

Storage:

If your child brings in a dummy to nursery these must be stored in a named, sterilised container. During the day the staff will ensure they must children's dummy back in their container when they are not in use.
If your child brings in a dummy without a container, we will not be able to take the dummy out of their bag due to hygiene reasons.

Monitoring and review:
Abberley House nursery will review this policy annually or more frequently as required, for example to address issues highlighted through employee feedback or to react to legislative changes. The policy should objectively assess whether the stated policy aims have been met and review the effectiveness of the measures within this document.

Effectiveness of the policy will be assessed through:

- Feedback from the workforce, including complaints, appraisals/performance reviews, return to work surveys and exit interviews as appropriate.
- Staff turnover, retirement and sickness statistics

This Use of dummies policy is effective from: 12/08/25 until further notice

I have read and been informed about the content, requirements, and expectations of the **Use of dummies policy**

Use of dummies policy is for employees at Abberley House Nursery. I have received a copy of the policy and agree to abide by the policy guidelines as a condition of my employment and my continuing employment at Abberley House Nursery.

I understand that if I have questions, at any time, regarding the Use of dummies policy I will consult with my immediate manager / supervisor.

Please read the **Use of dummies policy** carefully to ensure that you understand the policy before signing this document.

Full Name	Signature	Date