



### EYFS DUMMY AND BOTTLE POLICY

<b>Date of Policy</b>	September 2023
<b>Member of staff responsible</b>	Sarah Reynolds
<b>Role</b>	Head of Early Years
<b>Last Review</b>	Significant changes

This policy applies to Sandcastles Nursery including 'early,' 'late' and 'wrap around care' and all staff members, volunteers and visitors in Sandcastles Nursery.

*(Please note that the term 'parents' also relates to carers and those with legal guardianship of children)*

Babies and young children spend lots of time making sounds and exploring their own mouths and voices before they begin to use words. In doing so they are not only practising and developing the skills needed for speech, but they are also encouraging other people in the world to notice and communicate with them. Children who suck dummies and/or use bottles throughout the day make fewer sounds, gain less experience of using their voice and hear less language from adults around them.

If young children are allowed to continue to suck a dummy and/or a bottle and talk with it in their mouths, there is also a risk that the child will learn distorted patterns of speech; due to the teat preventing normal movements at the front of the mouth. These patterns may be difficult to correct later on in development.

In the belief that proactive steps can be taken to ensure that each child develops the best speech and language possible and that parents and key persons can work together, Sandcastles Nursery practices the following policy.

We recognise that a dummy and/or bottle can be a source of comfort when a child is upset and that it may form part of their sleep routine. Our policy is therefore that the key person will encourage young children to use a dummy only at these times. The staff member will also work closely with parents to phase out dummies and bottles sensitively, taking into account individual children's emotional needs.