LITTLE CRICKETS AT PARK SCHOOL –DUMMIES AND THEIR USE POLICY

Children at Park School Nursery may use a dummy to comfort them when they are tired, sleeping or upset. Some research suggests that using a dummy when a baby is sleeping could reduce the risk of SIDS (lullabytrust.org.uk). Although a dummy can provide comfort, they can also impact speech development. We recognise dummies can be purposeful, research suggests that children over the age of one do not need a dummy and therefore nursery staff in partnership with parents will strive to achieve this, with the child's best interests at heart. However, this will be managed on a case-by-case basis.

1. THE USE OF DUMMIES

1.1 During the settling-in process, staff will discuss individual children's needs in reference to dummies.

1.2 Follow the parents' wishes with regards to dummies, however staff will aim to keep dummy use to a minimum.

1.3 Parents will supply dummies and a labelled storage box for each of their child's days, to be kept in the child's bag/their nursery box.

If using a dummy strap, this must be on a breakaway cord. These will be removed for sleep time and certain activities.

2. THE PHASING OUT OF DUMMY USE

2.1 Staff to liaise with parents to discuss the reduction of dummy usage.

2.2 Staff will use distraction techniques to soothe and comfort a child.

2.3 Staff will encourage the children to only use dummies at sleep times (leading to this also stopping).

2.4 If the child is old enough to understand, we will involve them in the process.

2.5 Use child friendly language and positive reinforcement with the child to help encourage and support.