The Meadows
Cheeky Chimps Childcare

Dummy policy

At The Meadows Cheeky Chimps, we aim to create an environment that is inclusive, safe, happy and stimulating.

We understand that some children may bring a dummy into the nursery as a source of comfort. While we understand that children may need to have their dummy from time to time at the setting, we will encourage for this to be used for short periods of time (e.g for up to 5 minutes) unless being used during nap times.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families have created the 'Supporting children with speech, language and communication needs: Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage'. This document mentions that dummies and bottles can contribute towards delayed communication development. Therefore, from this we would like to limit the time the children use their dummies to ensure they are able to build upon their communication development.

It's very important for children to learn to move their mouths in a number of ways such as chewing, smiling, making sounds and blowing bubbles as these are a few ways that children learn how to talk.

When a dummy is used for long periods of time throughout the day, this can limit the time children have to explore making different sounds and using their voices to communicate.

With this in mind, we will allow children to have their dummy at the nursery however, we will try to limit the amount of time children have this for. If your child becomes upset or distressed and we feel they will be able to calm with their dummy, we will give this to them. This is subject to parental preference.

Gemma Farrar 13.9.2026

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