



## **Kingsdown Pre-school policy on the use of dummies**

At Kingsdown Pre-school, we recognise that for some children a dummy can be a source of comfort when they are upset.

It should be noted, however, that young children spend lots of time making sounds and exploring their own mouths and voices before they begin to use words. It is known that children who suck a dummy throughout the day make fewer sounds, gain less experience of using their voices and hear less language from adults around them. It is widely felt that if children are allowed to continue to suck a dummy and talk with it in their mouths there is a risk that the child will learn distorted patterns of speech because the teat prevents normal movements at the front of their mouths.

In view of the above, if you still wish your child to have access to a dummy at Kingsdown Pre-school, you should be aware that we will only give it to your child as a comforter when upset. We would also encourage parents to phase out the use of dummies as soon as possible.

This policy was reviewed by Kingsdown Pre-school on 13 November 2021 and will be reviewed annually or sooner if needed.

Signed on behalf of pre-school A Bridges  
Chairperson of Kingsdown Pre-school