



Colyton Caterpillars Early Education

Early Years Bottles, Cups and Dummies Policy

This policy was agreed by trustees/staff:	
Date of last review:	July 2024
Date of next review:	January 2025
Reviewed by:	K.Clode

When a child starts at Colyton Caterpillars, we will discuss with parents/carers their individual bottle/cup/dummy needs.

- Dummies are stored in their individual bags and if dropped onto surfaces it will be sterilized and/or rinsed hygienically before re-use.
- Bottles are stored in the fridge, washed out after use and returned to parents to sterilise.
- Cups are washed in the dishwasher and should be labelled with permanent marker pen.
- Dummies will only be used when a child is due a sleep or extremely upset as the use of dummies can impair their language and development, can be a factor in ear infections, glue ear and can affect tooth development.

Bottles

- Babies/young children who are bottle fed should be held with a warm physical contact by a member of staff.
- They should not be propped up with a bottle as this is dangerous and doesn't meet educational needs.
- Bottles can only contain milk or water.
- After 12 months bottles should no longer used.

Cups

- Babies should be weaned onto a cup.
- Give them cups to play with.
- Give them praise from drinking from open cups.

Dummies

- It is recommended after 6 months a dummy is reduced, so by 12 months they can be moving on.
- Choose an orthodontic dummy as this causes less damage to teeth.
- Only use dummy for sleep/nap time or to sooth when upset.
- Try and find alternative ways to sooth child.

Any of our staff are willing to discuss with you the areas within this policy.