

## **PARENT/CARER POLICY** **BABIES AND TODDLERS UNDER TWO**

At our nursery we care for children under the age of two and have adapted our practice to ensure the safety and well-being of all children in this age group.

We ensure their health, safety and well-being through the following:

- Children under the age of two will have a separate base room and will not be cared for in groups larger than fifteen in any one room depending on room size.
- Care will be taken to ensure that babies and toddlers do not have access to activities containing small pieces, which could be swallowed or otherwise injure the child.
- All equipment will be checked daily before the children access the area. This will include checking the stability of the cots and highchairs and ensuring restraints on the highchairs, pushchairs and prams are intact and working
- All doors are fitted with viewing panels and door finger-guards to ensure the safety of children
- Outdoor shoes will be removed or covered when entering the baby and toddler area(s). Staff will remind parents and visitors to adhere to this procedure.
- Babies and toddlers will have their nappies changed according to their individual needs and requirements by their key person wherever possible. Information will be shared between parents and key person about nappy changing and toilet training in a way that suits the parents.
- Potties will be washed and disinfected after every use. Changing mats are wiped with anti-bacterial cleanser after each nappy change.
- Each baby must have his/her own bedding which will be washed at least weekly or when necessary
- Cot mattresses must meet safety standards
- Children under two years will not be given pillows, cot bumpers or any soft furnishings in order to prevent risk of suffocation
- We follow all cot death guidelines and advise parents of this information. Babies will always be laid to sleep on their back, with their feet touching the foot of the cot
- Sheets or thin blankets will come no higher than the baby's shoulders, to prevent them wriggling under the covers. We make sure the covers are securely tucked in so they cannot slip over the baby's head for children under 6 months.
- Cots will be checked before use to ensure no items are within reach i.e. hanging over or beside the cot (e.g. fly nets, cables)
- Children will never be left unattended in high chairs. Restraints will be removed and washed weekly or as needed

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- Babies will never be left propped up with bottles as it is both dangerous and inappropriate
- Checks on sleeping babies will be completed every 10 minutes. These are to be documented with the time and staff initials on the sleep check form
- Staff should not change nappies whilst pregnant until a risk assessment has been discussed and conducted by the nursery manager.
- Where food/milk is prepared for babies there is a separate area within the kitchen which is specifically designated for this preparation
- Bottles of formula milk will only be made up as and when the child needs them.
- Bottles and teats will be thoroughly cleaned with hot soapy water and sterilised after use (they will not be washed in the dishwasher)
- Made up bottles will be disposed of after one hour
- Labelled mother's breast milk will be stored in the fridge
- If dummies are used, they will be cleaned and sterilised. This also applies to dummies which have been dropped
- All dummies will be stored in separate labelled containers to ensure no cross-contamination occurs
- Sterilisers will be washed out and cleaned daily.