

## **Bottle Feeding and Weaning Policy**

### **January 2021**

This policy has been written to assist Nursery practitioners offering bottle feeds and supporting families with weaning children. Please see below guidance which should be followed in these circumstances. The Nursery has a separate protocol, displayed in the nursery kitchen, to support the safe procedures for the making up and storage of formula milk. This is in line with NHS Guidance.

**We recognise the important role feeding a young child plays in both nutrition and the development of relationships. The following points detail our philosophy and approaches:-**

- Parents and carers are supported in their choice to provide formula, expressed breast milk cow's milk or agreed alternatives over the age of one.
- Parents and carers are fully involved in sharing feeding routines through "Settling In" sessions and daily contact, all information is recorded in their 'Getting to know you' booklet. This includes preferred temperatures such as warm, room temperature or cooled.
- Parents and carers provide all milk and bottles. Milk should come in an original container so that practitioners ensure they are making bottles correctly. Parents and carers may provide sterilised bottles that have a secure lid or staff can sterilise them as needed.
- Only practitioners that are based in the Hedgehog Room (0-2 years)) should make up bottle feeds. They should ensure they follow the agreed protocol displayed in the kitchen. Feeds are only warmed with water and not in a microwave.
- Babies under the age of 1 will be offered cooled boiled water between feeds if required.
- Bottle feeding should be carried out in a quiet, comfortable space, where practitioners can engage with the child through eye contact and communication as appropriate.
- The amount of milk a child drinks should be recorded in the Daily Diary to be shared with parent and carers.
- After the age of 6 months and when parents or carers and practitioners agree that it is appropriate to wean a child, parents are usually asked to provide "first food" such as puree or soft finger food. School meals provided for older children in the setting would not be suitable for children under a year old.
- In the same way cows or alternative milk can be introduced over the age of one. Practitioners will continue to discuss and share progress through the transition period of offering courser textured food with lumps.

### **Policy Status and Review**

<b>Written by:</b>	EYFS Lead
<b>Owner:</b>	Principal
<b>Review date:</b>	January 2023