

### Caring for Babies and Toddlers

At Seedling Nursery we care for children under the age of two and ensure their health, safety and well-being through the following:

- Children under the age of two (9 months to 24 months) have a separate area and are cared for in small intimate groups.
- We ensure that younger children have opportunities to have contact with older children whilst at nursery
- At least half of the staff team caring for children under the age of two will have undertaken specific training for working with babies
- Care is taken to ensure that babies and toddlers do not have access to activities containing small pieces, which may be swallowed or otherwise injure the child
- The environment and equipment are checked daily before the children access the area. This includes checking the stability of cots and areas around, low/highchairs and ensuring restraints on these, pushchairs and prams are intact and working
- All doors are fitted door finger-guards to ensure the safety of children
- Outdoor shoes are removed or covered when entering the baby and toddler area(s). Staff remind parents and visitors to adhere to this procedure
- Babies and toddlers have their nappies changed according to their individual needs and requirements. No child is ever left unattended during nappy changing time
- Potties are washed and disinfected after every use. Changing mats are wiped with anti-bacterial cleanser before and after every nappy change
- Each baby must have his/her own bedding which is washed at least weekly and when necessary
- Cot mattresses meet safety standards
- We follow all cot death prevention/safety guidelines and advise parents of this information. See [Sleep Policy](#)
- All highchairs used for feeding are fitted with restraints and these are used at all times. Children are never left unattended in high chairs
- Babies are never left propped up with bottles as it is both dangerous and inappropriate
- Staff do not change nappies whilst pregnant until a risk assessment has been discussed and conducted. Students only change nappies with the support and close supervision of a qualified member of staff
- Bottles of formula milk are only made up as and when the child needs them. These should be cooled to body temperature, which means they should feel warm or cool, but not hot, and should be tested to ensure they are an appropriate temperature for the child to drink safely
- Following the Department of Health guidelines, we only use recently boiled water to make formula bottles (left for no longer than 30 minutes to cool). We do not use cooled boiled water that is reheated
- Bottles and teats are thoroughly cleaned with hot soapy water and given back to parents at the end of the day for their
- Contents of bottles are disposed of after two hours
- If dummies are used they will be cleaned and sterilised. This also applies to dummies which have been dropped. All dummies are stored in separate labelled containers to ensure no cross-contamination occurs

This policy last updated	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>Oct 2019</i>		<i>Sept 2020</i>