

Children's Health & Safety

Pacifier and Comforter Policy.

Our Vision.

To give every child **the best start in life.**

Our Mission.

To deliver high quality childcare and exciting learning opportunities for every child, giving them a head start as they prepare for school.

Our Values.

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Care | We take care of the children entrusted to us and our dedicated staff. All are appreciated and diversity is valued. |
| Quality | We maintain the highest standards in care and safety and provide exceptional early years education. |
| Service | We provide exceptional service and are integral to supporting parents bringing up children. |
| Value | We provide outstanding value for our families. |



Busy Bees Early Learning Australia recognises that pacifiers and other comfort items can be a source of security for infants, babies and toddlers and these comfort items often form part of their sleep routine. The use of pacifier and comfort items are entirely the choice of the Family and child.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 1 – Educational Program and Practice	
1.1 - Program	1.1.3 – Program Learning Opportunities
1.2 - Practice	1.2.1 – Intentional Teaching
QUALITY AREA 2 – Children's Health and Safety	
2.1 - Health	2.1.2 – Health Practices and Procedures
	2.1.3 – Healthy Lifestyle

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND REGULATIONS

Part 6	Operating an Education and Care Service (Law - 167)
Part 4.2	Children's Health and Safety (Reg - 77, 78)

RELATED POLICIES

Health and Hygiene Policy	Nutrition and Food Safety Policy
Educational Program Policy	Safe Sleep Policy

PURPOSE

The objective of this policy is to set out the requirements for health and safety policies and practices in relation to the health and hygiene of pacifier use and storage for babies and toddlers and honours Families as first educators of their children by offering them genuine comforters for settling into non-familiar environments.

SCOPE

Children, Busy Bees Employees, Visitors and Families

POLICY

Separation anxiety in children is when they fear being parted from their parents or guardians. It is common among babies and toddlers. For this reason, some Families choose to offer pacifiers and or other comfort items to their child or their child may choose their own comfort item. A very small number of pre-schoolers and school age children develop a more serious form of the condition, called separation anxiety disorder.

Babies and young children spend lots of time making sounds and exploring their own mouths and voices before they begin to talk. In doing so, they are not only practicing and developing the skills needed for speech, but they are also encouraging people around them to notice them and communicate with them. Children who suck dummies throughout the day make fewer sounds, gain less experience of using their voices and hear less language from adults around them.

Just like weaning, moving away from the use of a pacifier or comforter is a normal part of development in children. Continued use of a pacifier when children are beginning to develop more complex speech patterns may interfere with this process. If toddlers are allowed to continue to suck a pacifier and talk with it in their mouths, there is also a risk the child may learn distorted patterns of speech that may be difficult to change later.

Pacifier and Comforter Policy.

Managing transitions, including changes to routines and or reduced use of pacifiers and comfort items, must be managed sensitively and in collaboration with children and Families.

Busy Bees Early Learning encourage all educators to complete professional development in attachment relationships to understand the importance of attachment for children and babies.

Management/Nominated Supervisors Will:

- Ensure that all employees implement procedures for cleaning and sterilising as required and storing pacifiers.
- Ensure that employees are aware that children shall have access to their pacifiers and comforters as appropriate to their individual developmental needs.

Employees Will:

- Ensure children have easy access to their comfort items (not pacifiers due to hygiene reasons however, children must be offered their pacifier if they indicate a need for it)
- NEVER attach a pacifier to a child – especially when they are going to bed
- NEVER leave a comfort item in a cot or bed after a baby or child has fallen asleep
- If a child using a pacifier drops the pacifier or leaves it behind somewhere, clean the pacifier with warm soapy water (if the child is over six months) and sterilise (if the child is less than six months) the pacifier before returning it to the child
- Recommend at least two pacifiers be always left at the Service for the purpose of having a clean pacifier available at all times
- Store pacifier in an individual plastic storage container that is clearly labelled with the child's name
- Clean storage containers daily in the same way dishes are cleaned throughout the Service
- Place signage in the storage area instructing Families and educators to put all pacifiers in the correct storage container for the individual child
- When not in use or once a pacifier has been discarded by a child, ensure it is cleaned and sterilised before returning to the child. Offer them the spare pacifier if they require replacement
- Never let children share pacifiers
- Store pacifiers out of children's reach but ensure it is available to the child when they require it
- Do not let the pacifier come in contact with another pacifier or toy
- Monitor the condition of pacifiers and inform parent or guardian of damage and the need for replacement
- Damaged pacifiers will not be used at the service due to potential health and safety hazards

Sterilising Pacifiers

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and running warm water. Dry hands on disposable paper towel
- Always prepare sterilising process in a clean, hygienic area. Sterilisation can be done by boiling for 5 minutes, anti-bacterial sterilising agents, steam sterilisers or microwave steam sterilisers
- With gloved hands, remove pacifier from sterile container and allow to dry, then place into the storage container

Guidelines for Families:

Families will:

- Be offered information that continued use of pacifiers once a child begins to speak may impede effective speech development
- Be informed during orientation that children's pacifier and comfort items must be clearly labelled with the child's name

Pacifier and Comforter Policy.

- Be supported in recognising genuine comfort items and their place in education and care services
- Will be encouraged to keep toys and non-comfort items at home for safe keeping
- Be encouraged to communicate regularly with educators about children's pacifier and comfort item requirements (e.g., if families are attempting to wean)
- Provide two pacifiers for the purpose of always having a clean one available for the child

Recommendations for Families when using a pacifier:

- Regularly clean to decontaminate
- Replace regularly and discard if cracked or damaged
- Use Australian standard labelled pacifier
- Never place a pacifier in your mouth before offering to a child
- Never dip pacifier into sweet foods
- Never tie a pacifier around a baby's neck
- Care for pacifier according to manufacturer's guidelines
- Never share pacifiers between children

SOURCES

[ACECQA](#)

[National Quality Standard](#)

[Education and Care services National Regulations](#)

[Education and Care Service National Law Act 2010](#)

[Early Childhood Australia](#)

[Raising Children - Separation Anxiety in Children](#)

[Raising Children - Dummies](#)

[Queensland Health - Dummies and Pacifiers](#)

VERSION CONTROL

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years and/or in line with legislation and organisation requirements.

Version	Date	Owner	Responsibility	Change Description
1	01/10/2023	Chief Pedagogy & Safeguarding Officer	Policy Development Officer	Replace all previous versions

This document is uncontrolled when printed and may be varied, replaced, or terminated without notice.