Bottle Feeding Policy

Little Monsters Day Nursery

1. Statement of Intent

At Little Monsters Day Nursery, we are committed to ensuring that babies and young children are fed safely, hygienically, and in line with individual needs and parental preferences.

We recognise that feeding times are an important part of a child's care, development, and emotional well-being. We aim to provide a calm, nurturing, and responsive environment that promotes healthy growth and secure attachments.

This policy supports the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) safeguarding and welfare requirements and food hygiene standards.

2. Legal Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework
- Food Safety Act 1990
- Food Hygiene Regulations
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

3. Responsibilities

Manager and Senior Staff

- Ensure staff are trained in safe feeding practices
- Monitor hygiene and safety procedures
- Ensure policies are followed consistently

Staff and Key Persons

Staff are responsible for:

- Following hygiene and safety procedures
- Supporting children sensitively during feeding
- Recording feeds where required
- Communicating with parents

Parents and Carers

Parents are responsible for:

- Providing correctly prepared and labelled feeds
- Supplying up-to-date feeding instructions
- Informing staff of any changes

4. Preparation and Arrival of Feeds

To ensure safety and hygiene:

- All bottle feeds must arrive at nursery pre-measured, either:
  - Fully prepared in the bottle, or
  - With measured formula in a separate container and water in the bottle
- All bottles and containers must be clearly labelled with:
  - Child's name
  - Date
  - Contents
- If feeds arrive warm, they will be cooled before being placed in the refrigerator.
- Expressed and frozen breast milk is welcomed and stored according to guidance.

5. Storage of Feeds

- All milk is stored in a designated refrigerator at the correct temperature.
- Bottles are kept in sealed, labelled containers.
- Breast milk is stored in accordance with health guidance.
- Expiry dates and storage times are monitored.

6. Warming and Preparing Feeds

Staff will ensure that:

- Bottles are warmed using hot water only.
- Microwaves are never used.
- Bottles are removed from hot water and allowed to cool for at least 30 seconds.
- Milk is gently shaken to ensure even temperature.
- Temperature is tested on the inside of the wrist before feeding.

Feeds must be warm, not hot, before being offered.

7. Feeding Practice

We promote responsive and nurturing feeding practices:

- Children are always supervised during feeds.
- Babies are fed by a trained practitioner where required.
- Practitioners sit comfortably and hold babies securely.
- Feeding is paced according to the child's cues.
- Children are never left unattended with a bottle.
- Age-appropriate feeding methods are followed.

8. Hygiene and Safety

To reduce risk of infection:

- Staff wash hands before and after feeds.
- Feeding equipment is cleaned and stored hygienically.
- Surfaces are disinfected regularly.
- Personal protective equipment is used where required.

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9. Handling Leftover Milk

- Any milk that has been warmed and not used is discarded.
- Leftover milk from a feed is never reused.
- Milk must never be reheated under any circumstances.

10. Partnership with Parents

We work closely with parents to ensure consistency:

- Feeding routines are discussed regularly.

- Individual feeding plans are followed.
- Changes are communicated promptly.
- Cultural, medical, and personal preferences are respected.

11. Recording and Monitoring

Where required, staff record:

- Time of feed
- Amount taken
- Any concerns
- Child's response

Records are shared with parents.

12. Safeguarding and Welfare

Safe feeding practices form part of our safeguarding responsibilities. Any concerns relating to feeding, growth, or well-being are reported to the Manager and discussed with parents.

13. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually or when:

- Guidance changes
- An incident occurs
- Ofsted recommendations are made

14. Policy Adoption

This policy was adopted by: **Little Monsters Day Nursery**

Date: _____

Review Date: _____

Signed: _____

Role: Manager / Owner