

**PARENT/CARER POLICY**  
**BABIES AND TODDLERS UNDER TWO YEARS OLD**

At Rainbow we care for children under the age of 2 years and have adapted our care and practice to ensure the safety and well-being of all children of this age group.

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

- Children under the age of 2 years will have a separate base room and will not be cared for in groups larger than 15 in any one room dependent 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 cots and highchairs and ensuring the restraints on the highchairs, pushchairs and prams are intact and working.
- All doors are fitted with viewing panels and finger guards to ensure the safety of the children.
- Babies and toddlers will have their nappies changed according to their individual needs and requirements. Information will be exchanged between parents and staff about nappy changing and toilet training in a way that suits the parents.
- Staff will wear disposable gloves and aprons when changing nappies. Changing mats and potties are to be cleaned with anti-bacterial cleaner after each nappy change.
- Each child will have clean bedding that is washed at least weekly or more frequently when necessary.
- Cot mattresses must meet safety standards.
- Children under 2 must not be given pillows, cot bumpers or any soft furnishings in order to prevent risk of suffocation.
- We follow all cot death guidelines. 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 ensure 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 in reach.
- Children will never be left unattended in highchairs. Restraints will be cleaned as needed.

**PARENT/CARER POLICY**  
**BABIES AND TODDLERS UNDER TWO YEARS OLD**

- Babies will never be left propped up with bottles as it is both dangerous and inappropriate.
- Sleeping children will be supervised at all times.
- Checks on sleeping babies will be completed every 10minutes. These are to be documented with the time and staff initial on the sleep check form.
- Pregnant staff must ensure a risk assessment has been carried out and is continually reviewed and discussed with regard to changing nappies.
- Bottles of formula milk will only be made up as and when the child needs them. Following the health guidelines, we will use only recently boiled water and they will be left no longer than 30minutes to cool.
- Parents are to supply all sterilised bottles daily.
- Bottles will be disposed of after one hour.
- Labelled breast milk will be stored in the fridge.
- If dummies are used, they will be cleaned and sterilised when needed e.g. if dropped.
- All dummies will be stored in separate labelled containers to ensure no cross contamination.
- Sterilisers will be washed out and cleaned daily.