

WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEDGEHOGS NURSERY & SUNBEAMS CLUB



Teething Policy



Updated: September 2026
Review Date: September 2028

1. Purpose

At Hedgehogs Nursery and Squirrels Nursery, we recognise that teething can be uncomfortable for babies and young children. We aim to support children sensitively and safely while ensuring that any teething products or medicines are used appropriately.

Our approach is to use the **least invasive option first**, progressing through the following stages only when necessary.

2. Stages of Teething Support

Stage 1: Teething Toys and Rings

The first approach to supporting a teething child will be to offer **teething toys or teething rings provided by the nursery**.

- Nursery-provided teething toys and rings will be **hygienically stored and sanitised** in line with the setting's hygiene procedures.
- Parents and carers are welcome to bring in their child's own teething toy or ring.
- Any item brought from home must be placed in a **pot clearly labelled with the child's name**.
- Staff will ensure that teething items are kept clean and stored safely when not in use.
- Teething toys and rings must be suitable for the child's age and stage of development.

Stage 2: Teething Gels or Powders

If a child continues to experience discomfort and a teething gel or powder is considered necessary, **parents or carers may provide the product**.

- All teething gels, powders and other medicines must be **handed into the Infant Office**.
- The appropriate **medication paperwork must be completed** before staff administer the product.
- The medicine must be clearly labelled and supplied in its original packaging.
- Staff must check the child's name, the product, the dosage and any relevant instructions before administration.
- **Hedgehogs and Squirrels staff must follow the Administration of Medicines Policy** when applying teething gel or powder.
- Staff must not administer any product without the required parental consent and completed paperwork.

Stage 3: Calpol or Ibuprofen

Calpol or ibuprofen should be considered **a last resort for a child who is teething.**

- Calpol or ibuprofen must be **handed into the Infant Office.**
- The appropriate **medication paperwork must be completed** before staff administer the medicine.
- The medicine type, dose and frequency must be **in line with the manufacturer's instructions** and the setting's Administration of Medicines Policy.
- **Hedgehogs and Squirrels staff must follow the Administration of Medicines Policy** when giving Calpol or ibuprofen.
- Staff must not administer Calpol or ibuprofen without the required parental consent and completed paperwork.

3. Important Warning About Calpol and Ibuprofen

Calpol and ibuprofen should only be used as a last resort for teething.

These medicines can **mask symptoms of a child being unwell**, including a high temperature. It is important that staff do not assume that a child is well simply because their temperature has reduced after receiving medicine.

If a child has a **high temperature of 38°C or above**, or if they have been given Calpol or ibuprofen to lower their temperature, they are **not well enough to attend Nursery, Preschool or School** and should remain at home until their temperature has returned to **between 36.5°C and 37.5°C.**

Parents and carers should inform the setting if their child has been given Calpol or ibuprofen before attending.

If a child's teething symptoms appear to subside, parents or carers will be contacted to discuss whether another dose of Calpol or ibuprofen is necessary. Any further administration will be subject to the appropriate parental consent, completed medication paperwork and the manufacturer's instructions.

4. Monitoring and Communication

Staff will continue to monitor the child's comfort and general wellbeing throughout the day.

If a child appears unwell, develops a high temperature, or staff have concerns about their symptoms, parents or carers will be contacted.

Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss any concerns about their child's teething with a healthcare professional.