

Carrier Policy



Oyster Bay Nursery

Draft Prepared	Sept 2025
Signed by Executive Headteacher	Ms D Hines
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Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible

At Oyster Bay Nursery, the comfort and security of our children is integral to our care. Building bonds and a strong attachment is critical for a baby's happiness and comfort, enabling parent confidence in their child's care.

Slings can help carers hold children close, enable them to respond immediately to their emotional needs, and quickly soothe upset children.

Experience tells us that distressed or tantrummy babies put into slings, calm down as they are rocked and swayed and often fall asleep.

Slings are particularly helpful for providing familiarity for children carried in slings by their parents. Using slings with these children can help replicate their home routine and provide a familiar source of comfort.

Slings enable babies to be carried at height, enabling them to see the world through the eyes of the person carrying them. This provides a new perspective for them, allowing them to observe how the carer interacts with the world, how they communicate with other people, and how they behave. This observation and learning help their social and emotional development as well as their language acquisition.

Slings also provide a haven for overstimulated and overtired babies. Holding a baby close in a sling provides some respite and rest during a busy and active nursery day.

In addition to the emotional and social benefits for childcare providers, using carriers has obvious logistical and practical advantages. Slings can be used on day trips and walks. While one baby is in a sling, the same carer can hold hands with two other children or push a double buggy, maintaining the 1:3 baby room ratio.

Comfort for children and staff matters and no staff member will be made to use a sling. We also have different types of slings within the nursery so staff and babies can try different styles.

During our Parent and Key worker visits, we will discuss with the parent their thoughts and feelings about using a sling and the pros and cons of sling use.

We will also follow the T.I.C.K.S. rules for safe baby-wearing and always have the checklist available in classrooms. Staff will have training based on the TICKS rules for safe babywearing.

The **T.I.C.K.S.** Rule for Safe Babywearing

Keep your baby close and keep your baby safe.

When you're wearing a sling or carrier, don't forget the **T.I.C.K.S.**



- ✓ **TIGHT**
- ✓ **IN VIEW AT ALL TIMES**
- ✓ **CLOSE ENOUGH TO KISS**
- ✓ **KEEP CHIN OFF THE CHEST**
- ✓ **SUPPORTED BACK**



TIGHT – slings and carriers should be tight enough to hug your baby close to you as this will be most comfortable for you both. Any slack/loose fabric will allow your baby to slump down in the carrier which can hinder their breathing and pull on your back.



IN VIEW AT ALL TIMES – you should always be able to see your baby's face by simply glancing down. The fabric of a sling or carrier should not close around them so you have to open it to check on them. In a cradle position your baby should face upwards not be turned in towards your body.



CLOSE ENOUGH TO KISS – your baby's head should be as close to your chin as is comfortable. By tipping your head forward you should be able to kiss your baby on the head or forehead.



KEEP CHIN OFF THE CHEST – a baby should never be curled so their chin is forced onto their chest as this can restrict their breathing. Ensure there is always a space of at least a finger width under your baby's chin.



SUPPORTED BACK – in an upright carry a baby should be held comfortably close to the wearer so their back is supported in its natural position and their tummy and chest are against you. If a sling is too loose they can slump which can partially close their airway. (This can be tested by placing a hand on your baby's back and pressing gently - they should not uncurl or move closer to you.) A baby in a cradle carry in a pouch or ring sling should be positioned carefully with their bottom in the deepest part so the sling does not fold them in half pressing their chin to their chest.

