

# BITING POLICY

Biting is a stage of behaviour that some young children go through and can be triggered when they do not yet have the vocabulary to communicate their anger, frustration or needs.

If a child is bitten, they will be comforted and checked for any visual injury. First aid will be administered. An accident form will be completed, and the parents/carers may be informed via telephone if deemed necessary. The parents /carers will be asked to sign the accident form to confirm they are aware of the incident on collection.

For confidentiality purpose and possible conflict the name of the child who has done the biting will not be disclosed to the parents/carers.

The child who has caused the bite will be told in terms they can understand that biting (the behaviour and not the child) is unkind, and be shown that it makes staff and the child who has bitten extremely sad. The child will be asked to say sorry if developmentally appropriate or to show they are sorry, e.g., through hugging.

An incident form will be completed and shared with the child's parents/carers at the end of the child's session.

If a child continues to bite, observations will be carried out to try and establish a trigger, e.g., Tiredness or frustration. The situation will be discussed with the child's parents/carers to develop joint strategies to prevent the biting behaviour. Parents/carers will be reassured that it can be part of a child's development and to not made to feel that it is their fault.

In the event of a bite breaking the skin, which presents a risk of infection from bacteria, prompt treatment may be needed for both the 'biter' and the 'bitten'.

Where a child continues to bite and shows no sign of hanging their behaviour pattern, the parent/carer will be contacted and asked to remove the child from that session. This is in accordance with the behaviour policy of our setting.

Where a child has a particular special educational need or disability that lends itself to biting, e.g., in some cases of autism where a child doesn't have the appropriate communication skills, the setting will seek professional advice. Permission will be gained from the parent/carer prior to this taking place.

Created August 2015

Reviewed January 2023