



Biting Policy

Pre-school Manager: Nicky Benson-Dare

This policy will be reviewed annually. It will also be revised following any concerns and/or updates to national and local guidance and procedures.

Statement

Biting is part of a normal developmental stage and a common behaviour in young children which can be a concern for parents and staff. This part of children's development can be triggered for a variety of reasons, for example, when they do not yet have the words to communicate their feelings or needs. However, because of the danger this behaviour represents to other children, repeated biting in a group childcare setting cannot be tolerated and requires positive intervention on the part of both the staff and the parents. We maintain close and constant supervision of the children at all times but due to the speed with which a biting incident may occur, it is not always possible to prevent it happening. At Busy Bees we follow our Behaviour Management Policy to promote positive, acceptable behaviour.

Aim

Our pre-school uses the following strategies to prevent biting: regularly promoting Busy Bees Rules (please refer to our Behaviour Management Policy); activities which promote personal, social and emotional development, as well as communication and language development; adequate resources; and staff who recognise when children need support. When a biting incident does occur, we aim to act quickly and effectively. We will treat each incident with care and patience, offering comfort to the children involved; helping children to manage their feelings and talk about them to help resolve issues and promote understanding.

Procedures

The procedures for handling a biting incident are as follows:

- The child who has been bitten will be the priority and should be comforted and given reassurance. The bitten area should be washed with soap and water. Appropriate first aid action will be taken where necessary.
- The child who has bitten will be spoken to in language appropriate to their stage of development, and it will be explained that biting others is unkind and that it makes grown-ups and the child who has been bitten sad. The child will be asked to say sorry if it is developmentally appropriate and will be shadowed by a member of staff for as long as we feel it is necessary.
- A report of the incident will be made on an incident form and the parents/carers of both children will be notified of the incident. Confidentiality of all children involved will be maintained. The bitten area should continue to be observed by staff and parents/carers for signs of infection.
- The parents/carers of the child who has bitten should be informed at collection time. Staff will ensure this is handled in a sensitive and confidential manner and not discussed openly in front of other parents/carers and children.
- We look at the context of each biting incident to try to identify the reason why it occurred, in an effort to prevent further biting behaviour. Continuous developmental support will be given by the child's key person to encourage the child to resolve conflict or frustration in an appropriate manner.

- In the event of this behaviour being repeated, as before, we will look to distinguish a cause and we will arrange a meeting with the child's parents/carers to develop strategies to prevent the biting behaviour. Parents/carers will be reassured that it is part of a child's development and not made to feel that it is their fault. We work with parents to reduce any anxiety or stress caused to anyone involved in these incidents