

Biting Policy

Many children go through stages in their development, where they exhibit behaviour that others find unacceptable. Biting in particular is a very unpleasant form of behaviour that is particularly prevalent in children whose language skills are only just developing and can often be an expression of frustration that they have not yet acquired the skills to express what they are feeling. Temper tantrums are another form of behaviour that most children of a similar age or developmental stage go through. Happily, just as temper tantrums eventually diminish with age, so usually does biting. The Nursery / club always follows the same procedures in the event of a child being bitten.

Our procedures are as follows:

- To comfort the bitten child and administer appropriate First Aid.
- To explain to the biting child why biting is unacceptable, that it hurts the other child and show the mark or bruise.
- Remove the biting child from the circumstances that provoked the biting for a short period of time.
- We will always inform the parents of the bitten child through an accident form.
- We will always inform the parents of the child that has bitten through an incident form and explore with them possibilities for dealing with such incidents if they occur at home or elsewhere.
- To discuss with other staff members the incidents concerned and evaluate and monitor the situation for the future.
- In a small minority of cases where the biting is persistent to the point of serious concern, it may be appropriate to enlist the help of other professionals, e.g. Health Visitor, Child Psychologist, to look closely at any other contributory factors. This would only be done only in consultation with parents/carers.
- It is not Nursery / club policy to “expel” a child for this type of behaviour as this only removes the child and does not address the problem.

Staff members will not disclose the identity of the child that has bitten as it is vital to maintain the confidentiality of the children concerned but we cannot stop a child who is able to speak from passing the information on.

We ask for your support in the event of a child biting or being bitten and hope that you will understand the need for our Policy and Procedures which are to safeguard the interests of all those concerned.