



Biting Policy:

Information for Parents/Carers

October 2017

Evidence suggests that up to a quarter of all children will bite others at some stage, (mostly between the ages of 2 and 3) and most parents feel that it's one of the worst things their child can do in school or nursery.

Understanding why a child bites is of the utmost importance. Sometimes a child may be teething and the biting feels good. Others seem to enjoy the strong reaction they get. Not all children bite out of anger or to hurt another child, very young children often don't understand how much pain they're causing. We must all consider that biting is a way of communicating rather than just bad behaviour, once this is accepted then we can begin to respond appropriately.

If your child is the biter...

- Don't panic! You may feel embarrassed and frustrated, but remember this is more common than you think and hopefully it will only last for a short while.
- When your child bites another, depending on their age/stage they may be removed from the situation told "no" and excluded from play for a short while or if they are older they may spend time with a member of senior management who will talk to them about what has happened.
- Staff will then talk to your child about their unacceptable behaviour and encourage them to say sorry and/or give a cuddle to the injured child.
- Staff will record details such as; date, time, who, why, where etc in order to help identify any patterns or triggers.
- Staff will discuss the incident, and any further incidents with you, not only to keep you informed, but also to ensure we are working together and dealing with these incidents consistently. Staff may invite you into school to discuss the incidents in more detail in order to try and get to the underlying cause of the biting.



If your child has been bitten...

- A very common reaction is to feel angry and outraged but, please be assured that we take biting very seriously and will not tolerate it.
- Staff will quickly assess the situation, immediately apply a cold compress pack to reduce pain, swelling and bruising and spend lots of time reassuring your child.
- Once staff are happy that your child is alright and no further treatment is required they will complete an accident slip for you, which details exactly what happened and how they attended to your child. They will also record the same on an incident report for records.
- Depending on the seriousness of the bite you will either be contacted straight away or staff will wait for you to come to pick up your child at the end of their session in order to discuss the incident with you.
- Staff will continually monitor your child's bite, reapplying cold compresses if necessary, offering comfort and special attention.
- We will closely supervise the children's interaction and play to try and prevent the incident occurring again.
- You will receive your child's accident slip and this biting policy from staff. Please feel free to ask staff to clarify anything you are unsure of or to arrange to discuss any concerns you may have.
- Due to confidentiality, staff will not under any circumstances, divulge who has bitten your child. We feel this would be of no benefit to you or the child.

In a social environment such as a School or Nursery, biting cannot be prevented. All we can do as a staff, is remain vigilant and deal with it promptly and professionally.

We thank you for your support in this.