



BITING POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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. It can be prevalent in children whose language skills are only just developing and caused by frustration if they have not acquired skills necessary to express their feelings. Temper tantrums are another form of behaviour that most children of a similar age or developmental stage go through. Happily, just as tantrums eventually diminish with age, so usually does biting.

The Preschool always follows the same procedures in the event of a child being bitten.

Our procedures are as follows:

1. To comfort the bitten child and administer appropriate First Aid.
2. To explain to the biting child why biting is unacceptable, that it hurts the other child and show the mark or bruise.
3. Remove the biting child from the circumstances that provoked the biting for a short period of time.
4. We will always inform the parents of the bitten child.
5. We will always inform the parents of the child that has bitten and explore with them their strategy for dealing with such incidents if they occur at home or elsewhere. (If their strategy was a direct contradiction of our strategy, e.g. Parent biting the child back, we would explain why we thought this was an inappropriate response.)
6. To discuss with other staff members the incidents concerned and evaluate and monitor the situation for the future.
7. 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 in consultation with parents/carers.
8. It is not Pre-school 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.

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.