

Supporting Biting Policy

Policy Overview

Evidence suggests up to a quarter of all children will bite others at some stage and this is a normal stage of development for many children. We acknowledge that this can be a challenging time for you and your little one. This policy outlines how our nurseries support children going through this process and children who are subjected to incidents of biting.

In line with our Supporting Biting Policy and Procedure, the Nursery Manager will...

- Ensure staff are aware of children's biting triggers and are working to actively reduce them.
- Consistently and effectively implement the behaviour management strategy for biting.
- Support the children and parents/carers involved in any incidents of biting.
- Ensure staff are suitably first aid trained in the treatment of bites.

In the event of a biting incident, our procedure is to...

1. Comfort and reassure the child who has been bitten. Support should then be given to the child who has bitten.
2. Once the child is calm, the bitten area should be cleaned with running water or a saline solution.
3. If the bite is bleeding, it should be covered with a sterile pad and pressure applied.
4. The incident must be recorded on an Accident & Incident Form for both children and signed by the parents/carers when their child is collected.
5. If there is no obvious mark or bruising, the incident can then be discussed with the parents/carers at collection time or earlier via telephone.
6. If first aid has been administered and a mark/bruising is still visible, the child's parents/carers should be called immediately.
7. If the bite has broken the skin, then a senior member of staff will advise the parents/carers to seek medical attention as soon as reasonably practical.
8. If an adult is bitten, they should seek the same first aid treatment above.



- A child who is biting may need increased supervision, which could take the form of one-to-one supervision, during certain times of the day, or by reducing the number of large group activities.
- Staff will always try to assess the reason why a child is biting and take action which supports the child to modify their behaviour.
- Significant encouragement will be given when a child who is biting displays positive behaviour.
- Staff will evaluate the daily routine of a child who is biting and decide whether it's properly meeting their needs.
- A quiet, cosy area to relax in will be available to all children.
- Activities which help children to release tension and frustration, such as physical outdoor play, digging in sand and sensory experiences, will be available.

Factors which may influence biting

When attempting to identify what triggers a child to bite, staff should consider potential underlying factors like:

- The child's interactions with adults
- Which staff are deployed in the nursery
- The layout of the child's room in the nursery
- The child's individual routine at nursery
- Any transitions the child may be going through
- Over stimulation or under stimulation
- The child's relationships and friendships

If staff are unable to identify a trigger for a child's biting, they must seek support and advice from the nursery's Behaviour Coordinator or management team.

For more information on this policy, please contact your Nursery Manager.

