



# Biting Procedure

Biting can be an uncomfortable subject for parent/carer(s) of both the child that **has** bitten and the child who **is** bitten.

## Policy

The aim of this policy is to explain how the nursery deals with biting. Please discuss any concerns you may have regarding this issue with the nursery management team.

If your child is known to bite we would prefer to know in advance. Children bite for a variety of reasons. This may be because they are teething, frustrated, exploring using their mouth, asserting their independence and wanting to gain control, maybe of a toy, or they could be stressed. It may also be because they want to gain attention.

The nursery will work with you and your child to establish when and why they are biting. We will observe the child closely to see if certain conditions or situations trigger the behaviour and then work with them to try and avoid the incidents occurring. This may involve altering the child's routine, giving them more one to one attention, purchasing additional resources or if it is because a child is teething, providing suitable teething resources.

A member of staff will ensure that if a child is bitten that they are comforted and given lots of attention. We will ensure that any first aid needed is applied and the incident will be recorded on an accident form and parent/carer(s) notified and asked to acknowledge it.

## Procedure

If your child bites, a member of staff will remove them from the situation. We will explain to them, appropriate to their developmental level, that biting is unacceptable behaviour. For younger children this may be by tone of voice and facial expressions rather than lots of words. It may be necessary for us to move the child from an activity until they are calm enough to return. We will also work with them to develop strategies to help them deal with the reasons. If biting becomes a regular occurrence your child's key worker will work with the settings SENDCo to identify any patterns or triggers and put in place a plan to support your child.

With regard to our Confidentiality Policy we will not disclose the name of either child to the parent/carer(s). Many children go through a stage of biting. Please don't be alarmed - it doesn't last forever and it is a very normal part of development!

**This policy will be reviewed by management annually, who are responsible for ensuring the dissemination of this policy to all staff, volunteers and parents.**