



Biting Policy

We follow a positive behaviour policy however we understand that children may use certain behaviours such as biting as part of their development. Biting is a common behaviour that some young children go through and can be triggered when they do not yet have the words to communicate their anger, frustration or need.

Our procedures

The pre-school uses the following strategies to prevent biting: sensory activities, biting rings, adequate resources and staff who recognise when children need more stimulation or quiet times. However, in the event of a child being bitten we use the following procedures.

Immediate Actions for Bitten Child:

- Comfort and reassure the bitten child.
- Assess the injury and administer first aid, such as cleaning and applying a dressing if the skin is broken.
- Inform parents via an incident report detailing the event and any treatment given

Actions for Biting Child:

- Separate the child and address their behaviour calmly but firmly with phrases like "Biting hurts" or "We don't bite".
- Help the child understand that their actions upset others.
- Ensure the child is not receiving positive attention for the biting behaviour.

Parent Communication:

- Notify parents of the bitten child of the incident and any necessary medical advice.
- Inform parents of the child who bit their child, and ideally do not disclose their identity to other parents. (Although children are likely to tell their parent!)
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Incident Reporting and Monitoring:

- Complete an incident report for both children involved.
- Log repeated biting incidents and, if necessary, invite parents to a meeting to develop a behaviour plan.

Prevention and Support:

- Increase supervision for the child who bites, potentially by one-to-one supervision or reducing large group activities.
- Provide activities to help children release tension, such as physical play or sensory experiences.
- Offer quiet, cosy areas for relaxation.
- Share resources like books such as "[Teeth Are Not for Biting!](#)".

When to Seek Further Help:

- If biting persists, we will consult with the Children's Development Centre for further guidance.

There is no instant cure to biting. It may take time and patience from all parties before the child understands the message that is being conveyed.

BUT REMEMBER

***Biting is not anyone's fault. It is a phase of development some children go through.
Everyone needs to be realistic about the expectations of the child.***