



## Biting Policy

Biting can be an uncomfortable subject for parents of both the biter and the child who has been bitten. We hope that this policy will explain how we deal with biting in our setting. If your child has a tendency to bite, we would prefer to know in advance so we can take steps to stop it happening in the setting.

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, or they could be stressed. It may also be because they want to gain attention.

We will work with you and your child to try and 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 so sharing is not such a major issue or, if it is because a child is teething, provide suitable teething resources.

We will ensure that if a child is bitten, that they are the main priority and are comforted and given lots of attention. We will administer any first aid treatment if required and record the details on an *Record of Accident or Incident* form. The parent of the injured child will be asked to sign the form on collection of their child. An *Unwanted Behaviour* form will be completed for the biter and their parent will be asked to sign the form on collection of their child. The forms will be stored in the relevant child's personal file. If we feel the biting is becoming an issue, we will arrange a meeting with the parent to discuss a unified approach to help the child with the unwanted behaviour.

If your child bites, we will remove them from the situation. We will explain to them, according to their age and understanding, that biting is unacceptable behaviour. For younger child this may be by the tone of voice and facial expressions rather than lots of words. It may be necessary for us to exclude the child from an activity and use 'time out' until they are calm enough to return. We will also encourage the child to apologise to the child they have bitten and work with them to develop strategies to help them deal with the triggers of why they bite. The details will be recorded on an *Record of Accident or Incident* form and a parent will be asked to sign the form on collection of their child. This form will be stored in the child's personal file.

Many children go through a stage of biting, please don't be alarmed it doesn't last forever!

Associated form:

- Record of Accident or Incident
- Record of Unwanted Behaviour