

BITING POLICY

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 particularly prevalent in children whose language skills are only just developing and it can often be an expression of frustration that they have not yet acquired the skills to express what they are feeling.

Under no circumstances will we use or agree to use physical punishment or the threat of physical punishment on the child who bites. The following steps will be taken if a biting incident occurs at the nursery:

- The biting will be interrupted with a firm 'No, we don't bite people'.
- The bitten child will be comforted immediately and appropriate first aid administered.
- If the skin is broken the parent must be notified immediately and the child taken to their GP/A&E for assessment. If blood has escaped in the 'biters' mouth, he/she must be taken to A&E also.
- Staff will remove the biter from the situation. He/she will be dealt with age appropriately, which may involve either time out or distraction.
- We will always inform the parents of the bitten child.
- 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).
- To discuss with other staff members the incidents concerned and evaluate and monitor the situation for the future.
- In a small minority of cases where the biting is persistent to the point of serious concern, it may be appropriate to enlist the support of other professionals, e.g. health visitor, Early Years Advisor to look closely at any

other contributory factors. This will only be done in consultation with parents/carers.

- The biter may be shadowed permanently by a member of staff for a set period of time, e.g. 2 weeks. During this time details of incidents will be recorded, including date, time, children involved, activity taking place etc to see if there is a pattern to why the biting is taking place, e.g. is the child tired, hungry etc.
- We have 3 named staff who can be approached for advice on your child's behaviour. Our behaviour management staff members are: Gladys Kernick , Jemma Piper and Carla Richardson.