



Biting Policy

It is not Nursery policy to expel a child for this type of behaviour as this only removes the child and does not address the problem. Staff will not disclose the identity of the child that is biting. It is vital to maintain the confidentiality of the child, as some people may be angry at their child being bitten, which may result in a child being unfairly ostracised and labelled e.g. "Don't play with him/her, he/she bites" and may lead to conflict between parents.

We ask for support in the event of a child biting or being bitten and hope that you will understand the need for policy and procedures, in the event of this happening.

Many children go through stages in their development where they show behaviour that others find unacceptable. Biting is a very unpleasant form of behaviour, that is particularly prevalent in children whose language skills are just developing. It can often be an expression of frustration, that they have not yet acquired the skills to express what they are feeling. Temper tantrums are another form of behaviour, that most children of a similar age or development stage go through. Just as temper tantrums eventually diminish with age, so usually does biting.

In the event of a child being bitten, Nursery staff always follow the same procedure:

- Comfort the bitten child and administer appropriate first aid
- Caution the biting child, explaining why biting is unacceptable and remove the child from the circumstances that provoked the incident to take place
- Inform the parents of the bitten child
- Inform the parents of the child that has bitten and explore with them their strategy for dealing with such incidents should they occur at home or outside the Nursery. If their strategy was a direct contradiction of our strategy e.g. Parent/guardian biting them back, we will explain why we think this is an inappropriate response.
- Discuss with other staff members the incident concerned, evaluate and monitor the situation for the future.

In a small minority of cases when biting is persistent, to the point of serious concern, we will to enlist the help of other professionals e.g. Health Visitor to look closely at any other contributory factors. We ask for support in the event of a child biting or being bitten and hope that you will understand the need for policy and procedures in the event of this happening.