



## **Biting Policy:**

The nursery recognises that children for a variety of reasons, and from time to time attempt to bite other children. They may do this for many different reasons. A child might be teething or overly tired and frustrated; He or she might be experimenting or trying to get the attention of staff or peers; Younger children can have limited verbal skills and are sometimes impulsive without a measured degree of self-control; sometimes biting occurs for no apparent reason.

Due to the speed and randomness with which biting incidents occur, it isn't always possible to prevent these from happening.

Biting is not unusual amongst infants and toddlers, however repeated biting cannot be tolerated and requires positive intervention from both nursery staff and parents. The nursery will put in place a shadowing policy which consists of having a member of staff assigned to the child to help encourage positive behaviour through play and distraction.

The following steps will be taken if a biting incident occurs at nursery:

- The biter will be interrupted with a firm "No... we do not bite people".
- The bitten child will be comforted immediately.
- Staff will remove the biter from the situation and age appropriate action will be taken which will consist of either time out or distraction.
- The wound of the bitten child will be assessed and appropriate first aid action taken. If it is determined that there was blood exposure further steps may need to be taken and this will be decided by either the nursery manager or the deputy.
- The parents of both children will be informed of the incident and an accident form will be completed for the parents of the child who has been bitten. Confidentiality of all children involved will be maintained throughout.

Should the child not respond to the above methods, we reserve the right to ultimately exclude a child if we feel this is the best course of action for all concerned. This exclusion may be temporary whilst we review other ways to support the child and the staff. However, in more serious cases or where measures were unsuccessful, the nursery may regretfully make the exclusion permanent for the safety of the other children and staff. This decision will only be taken in consultation with the Owner.



How to Clean a Bite

Human mouths are inhabited by a wide variety of organisms, some of which can be transmitted by bites. Human bites which break the skin, are more likely to become infected than dog or cat bites, so it's important that they are treated promptly.

If a human bite does not break the skin:

1. Wash with soap and water
2. Apply a cold compress (ice pack) for 10 minutes
3. Record incident on incident form
4. No further action needed

If a human bite breaks the skin:

1. Wash immediately with soap and water
2. Apply a cold compress (ice pack) and cover with a dressing
3. Record incident on incident form
4. If the parent is concerned advise to seek medical advice

For reassurance and information about potential infection contact child's doctor or NHS direct 111.

Please ensure confidentiality is respected at all times, the biter must remain anonymous.

If biting happens more than once by one child, management must be notified immediately.