



Rainbow Day Nursery Policy on Biting

We follow a positive behaviour policy to promote positive behaviour at all times, this policy works in conjunction with that policy.

Statement of Intent

Biting is part of a normal developmental stage for young children who are teething and are still developing their language skills. It is usually a temporary condition which is most common between 13 to 24 months of age. However, because of the danger this behaviour represents to other children, repeated biting in a group childcare setting cannot be tolerated and requires positive intervention on the part of both staff and the parent/carers.

Aim

The staff will maintain a close and constant supervision of the children at all times but due to the speed and randomness with which biting incidents often occur, it is not always possible to prevent these from happening. Our biting policy addresses the actions the staff will take if a biting incident occurs.

Method

When a biting incident happens it is a very scary, frustrating and stressful for children, parents and staff. It is also not something to blame on children, parents or staff, and there is no quick and easy solution to it. Children bite for a variety of reasons; simple sensory exploration, panic, crowding, seeking attention or intense desire for a toy. Repeated biting becomes a pattern of learned behaviour that is often hard to stop because it does achieve results; desired toy, excitement or attention.

Our Policy for handling a biting incident is as follows:

- The biter is immediately removed from the situation with a firm “NO...we do not bite anyone”
- The bitten child will be comforted immediately and the bitten area washed and appropriate first aid action taken if required
- The accident book to be filled in by staff that witnessed the incident or was first on scene

- The biter will be spoken to in a manner appropriate to both age and stage of development and that he/she can understand and will be redirected to other play and supervised
- The bitten area should be continued to monitor by staff/parents for sign of infection
- Both set of parents/carers will be informed of the incident
- Confidentiality of all children involved will be maintained
- We will look at the context of each biting incident to see if a pattern can be identified, in an effort to prevent further biting behaviour (ABC chart/behaviour book may be required)
- We work with each biting child on resolving conflict or frustration in an appropriate manner
- We try to adapt the environment and work with parents/carers to reduce any child stress
- If a child bites more than once, a member of staff will shadow them for as long as it is felt appropriate both to protect potential victims and to try to understand why the biting is happening
- Exclusion would only be contemplated in extreme circumstances and with support from Head teacher Miss Bunce and the Early Year's team.