



Biting policy

Policy statement

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

While the motivation or attempt to bite is not seen as particularly worrying within a child's development, their success in doing so brings health concerns. The nursery recognises that a human bite that breaks the skin brings risk of possible infection including Tetanus and Hepatitis to the victims. Therefore parents are requested to make sure their child's Tetanus, and other immunisations are up to date.

Our intention

It is our intention to avoid any biting incidents, however, due to the speed and randomness with which biting incidents occur, it is not always possible to prevent these from happening.

Procedures

Biting is not 'abnormal' for infants and toddlers since one in ten toddlers bite. However, because of the danger this behaviour represents to other children, repeated biting in a childcare setting cannot be tolerated and requires positive intervention on part of both the nursery staff and parents. The nursery will encourage the children to use alternative methods to biting if they become angry or frustrated. The staff members will maintain a close supervision of the children at all times.

STEPS TO BE TAKEN

The safety of the children at the Nursery is our primary concern. The nurseries biting policy addresses the action staff will take if a biting incident occurs. Under **no** circumstances will we use physical punishment or the threat of physical punishment on the child that bites.

- The biting will be interrupted with a firm "no... we don't bite at nursery!"
- The bitten child will be comforted immediately.
- Staff will remove the biter from the situation. The biter will be dealt with accordingly by following our 'Behaviour Management Policy'.
- The wound of the bitten child will be assessed and appropriate first aid action will be taken. If it is determined that there was blood exposure further steps may need to be taken as determined by the Manager or Deputy.
- The parents of both children will be notified of the biting incident. An incident form will be filled out for both parties and signed at the end of the day. A copy of this will be given to the

parent if they require it (generally, a child under 2 would not be considered as being fully aware of the impact of biting and so an incident form is not filled out for them.)

- Confidentiality of all children will be maintained.
- The bitten area should continue to be observed by parents and staff for signs of infection.
- The parents of the child that has been bitten will be telephoned to let them know.

Though it may be apparent who has bitten your child, the nursery staff are not allowed to disclose any information on this matter. We are not permitted to speak about previous isolated incidents involving any other child in the nursery.

This policy was adopted by Little Squirts Preschool on 29th August 2019 (review date 1st August 2020)

Signed.....

Name.....

Role.....