BITING POLICY

When a biting incident happens it is very scary, frustrating and stressful for children, parents and staff. It is also not something to blame on children, parents or staff, and there are no quick and easy solutions to it. Children bite for a variety of reasons: simple sensory exploration, panic, crowding, seeking to be noticed, 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: the desired toy, excitement, attention.

Biting is part of a normal developmental stage for young children who are teething and are still developing their language skills and is commonly seen between the ages of 2 to 4 years 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 the staff and the parents.

Our Aim

It is our aim to provide a safe, warm and welcoming environment for all children to play and learn freely in. We aim to reduce the possibilities of biting by ensuring children's behaviour is closely monitored and correct procedures are in place to avoid incidents occurring.

Procedure:

Our procedure for handling a handling a biting incident is as follows:

• The biter is immediately removed from the group with a firm "No….we don't bite people"

• The bitten child will be comforted immediately and the bitten area washed with soap and water. Appropriate first aid action will be taken where deemed necessary.

• The bitten area should continue to be observed by parents and staff for signs of infection.

• The biter will be spoken to in a manner which he or she can understand, explain that it has made the other child sad and will be redirected to other play.

• A report of the incident will be made in our accident book and the parents of both children will be notified of the incident.

• Confidentiality of all children involved will be maintained.

• We look at the context of each biting incident to see if a pattern can be identified, in an effort to prevent further biting behaviour.

• 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 to reduce any child stress.

• If a child bites more than once, a member of staff will shadow them for as long as 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 the support of Suffolk Early Years and Childcare Service.

Zoe Plant

Preschool Manager

Benhall Preschool

Review year	2024	2025	2026
sign			
Print name			
Changes needed?	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No