Little Stars Pre-school
at Emmanuel Church

Biting Policy

Introduction

At Little Stars Pre-school we seek to promote positive behaviour at all times. However, we understand that children may use certain behaviours such as biting as part of their development. Biting is a common behaviour that some young children go through and can be triggered when they do not have the words to communicate their anger, frustration or need.

Prevention procedures

The Pre-school uses the following strategies to help prevent biting:

- Provision of sensory activities, biting rings and adequate resources
- Ensuring that staff recognise when children need more stimulation or quiet times.

Procedures in the event of a child being bitten

In the event of a child (or adult) being bitten, we use the following procedures:

Procedures with the bitten child / adult

The most relevant staff member(s) will:

- Comfort any child who has been bitten
- Check for any visual injury and administer any first aid where necessary.
- Continue to observe the bitten area for signs of infection.
- Complete an accident form and inform the parents via telephone if deemed appropriate. For confidentiality purposes and to avoid possible conflict we do not disclose the name of the child, who has caused the bite, to the parents

Procedures with the child who has caused the bite

- Tell the child who has caused the bite in terms that they understand that biting (the behaviour and not the child) is unkind and show the child that it makes staff and the child who has been bitten sad.
- The child will be asked to say sorry if developmentally appropriate or helped to develop their empathy skills by giving the child who has been bitten a favourite book or comforter.
- If a child continues to bite, carry out observations to try to distinguish a cause, e.g. tiredness or frustration
- Arrange for a meeting with the child's parents to develop strategies to prevent the biting behaviour. Parents will be reassured that it is part of a child's development and not made to feel that it is their fault

Infection Control Procedures

- In the event of a bite breaking the skin and to reduce the risk of infection from bacteria, give prompt treatment to both the child who has bitten and the child who has been bitten.
- If a child or member of staff sustains a bite wound where the skin has been severely broken arrange for urgent medical attention after initial first aid has been carried out.
- In cases where a child may repeatedly bite and/or if they have a particular special educational need or disability that lends itself to increased biting, e.g. in some cases of autism where a child doesn't have the communication skills, the Pre-school manager will carry out a risk assessment and may recommend immunisation with hepatitis B vaccine for all staff and children.

Review / Version Control				
Review period - 3 years				
Version	Created	Reviewed	Initials	Changes
Biting Policy (v1.0)	04/2020			
		09/2021	DH AP	-
Biting Policy - Oct24 - v1.1 - dr01	10/2024		DH AP	Changed template and version control. No changes to wording
Biting Policy - Oct24 - v1.2	10/2025		DH AP	Minor changes to wording and headings