



Northrepps Pre-School

Biting Policy and Procedures

Policy reviewed and updated: November 2018
Next review: November 2019

Signature:  Executive Head teacher: Date: 29-11-18

Signature:  Chair of Governors: Date: 29/11/18

Policy statement

Biting is always a delicate subject to handle as it is a very unpredictable accident which can be upsetting for all involved.

Most children grow out of biting phases by the time they go to school as they develop the skills to show their anger, stress, boredom, poor communication skills, hunger or call for attention in different ways.

As the children get older the reasons for biting become clearer and dealing with the issues should be easier.

Biting when older can also be more serious as their teeth are stronger and there are more of them.

Both biting and being bitten can be very upsetting and parents of both parties may be devastated.

Procedure to follow if a child is bitten

- All cases need to be dealt with individually and carefully.
- All cases need to be recorded on an Incident Form
- A biting incident need to be handled confidently and sensitively
- All bites should be treated in the same way.
- Every accident/incident needs to be recorded.

How to respond to the bitten child and informing their parent/carer:

- Focus attention on the bitten child first:
- First aid may need to be given. A cold compress/ice pack will help swelling, but if the skin has been pierced then the parents of the child may need to seek medical advice.
- Fill out Accident Form and ask parents to sign.
- Inform the bitten child's parent/carer of the incident, but not the name of the child who did the biting. If the skin has broken inform the parent that they will need to seek medical advice.

- Reassure the parents of the bitten child that the incident was treated seriously by Pre-School: that the biting child was removed from the situation and told that his/her behaviour was unacceptable and the situation will be monitored.

How to respond to the child that bit:

- Staff need to stay calm and no-one needs to panic.
- The biter must be immediately told "NO" and that their behaviour is unacceptable.
- The "biter" should have it clearly explained to them why this behaviour is unacceptable: because it hurts the other child and is very upsetting for them. It's wrong to hurt anyone. Refer to 'Golden Rules'
- Be careful not to give attention to the biting as you might be encouraging the behaviour.
- An Incident Form must be completed
- If the child bites again please see Reoccurring Biting guidance

Informing the parents of the child that bit:

- Parents need to be informed and the situation resolved as soon as possible.
- If the reason for the biting is known, then this should be told to the parents. If the reasons are not known, then the parents should be asked what they think the reasons could be.
- There is always a reason why children bite and it may take a while to work out what it is: experimenting, boredom, stress, poor communication skills, copying, frustration, powerlessness.
- Child observations, Key Person time and communicating with parents will always help to find out these reasons, if the child carer in charge is not able to do so at the time.
- Inform parents of next steps if the biting continues to occur (See Persistent Biter)
- Make it clear that you want all the children in Pre-School's care to be happy and get along with each other

Re-occurring Biting Incident

- A child that consistently bites is monitored by all staff members in case there is a pattern.
- This monitoring would be discussed with the parents and an Individual Behaviour Plan would be put in place if necessary, please see Behaviour Policy Appendix 1.
- The biter would be rewarded for positive behaviour through praise and not continuously be reminded of bad behaviour.