

15. Biting policy

Biting is a common behaviour that some young children go through. This is part of some children's development and can be triggered when they do not yet have the words to communicate their anger, frustration, affection or need. At Little Acorns Day Nursery we follow our positive behaviour policy to promote positive behaviour at all times.

Strategies to prevent biting include; sensory activities, biting rings, adequate resources and a stimulating exciting environment. However in the event of a child being bitten the following procedure will be followed:

The child who has been bitten will be comforted and checked for any visual injury. First aid will be administered where necessary. An accident form will be completed and the parents may be informed via telephone if deemed appropriate. The bitten area will be continued to be observed for signs of infection.

For confidentiality purposes and possible conflict the name of the child who has bitten will not be disclosed to the parents.

The child who has caused the bite will be told in terms that they understand that biting (the behaviour and not the child) is unkind, and be shown that it makes staff and the child who has been bitten sad. We make it clear that it is the biting behaviour that we disapprove of - not the child and to reinforce this, positive behaviour will be encouraged and praised. The child will be asked to say sorry if developmentally appropriate or show they are sorry, e.g. through hugging. If appropriate an incident form will be completed and shared with the parents at the end of the child's session.

If a child continues to bite, observations and ABCC charts will be carried out to try to distinguish a cause or pattern, e.g. tiredness, hunger or frustration. Meetings will be held 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.

In the event of a bite breaking the skin and to reduce the risk of infection from bacteria, prompt treatment may be needed for both the 'biter' and the 'bitten'.

If a child or member of staff sustains a bite wound where the skin has been severely broken they may require urgent medical attention after initial first aid has been carried out.

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 setting will carry out a risk assessment and may recommend immunisation with hepatitis B vaccine for all staff and children. Further advice and strategies may be sought from our setting SENDco or Area INCo.

Internal use only

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date disseminated to staff	Date for review
04/02/2014	Michele Glide	4/2/2015	4/2/2016
4/2/2016	Michele Glide	4/2/2016	4/2/2017
16/08/2017	Michele Glide	16/08/2017	16/08/2018
06/09/2018	Sharon Duell	06/09/2018	06/09/2019
14/01/2021	Sharon Duell	14/01/2021	14/01/2022