

## Biting Policy

To be read in conjunction with Little Steps Nursery School's Behaviour Policy.

### **Aims**

- To ensure we are providing a safe environment for children to learn and develop
- To use our knowledge of child development to best support children's development

### **Rationale**

Children bite for a variety of reasons. Research tells us that occasional biting is common in children under 5, however every incidence of biting is distressing for all children, parents and staff involved. We must therefore take steps to minimise the occurrence of biting while providing appropriate support to the child who has bitten and the child who has been bitten.

### **Procedure**

To help minimise the occurrence of biting we:

- Discuss the effects of biting at an age appropriate level
- Encourage children to be kind, and explain practically what this means
- Give children appropriate ways of communicating distress, discomfort or frustration.

If a biting incident does occur:

- The child who has bitten will be told 'no biting' and the child who has been bitten will be attended to.
- At a calmer moment a practitioner will talk through the incident with the child who has bitten, at an age appropriate level, in an effort to determine the triggers for the biting. They may read a book such as 'teeth are not for biting' to help illustrate the point.
- An accident form will be completed for the child who has bitten and the child who has been bitten.
- The parents of the child who has bitten and the child who has been bitten will be telephoned by a senior member of staff.
- If the bite has broken the skin, the parents of the child who has been bitten will be advised to seek medical advice from their GP or pharmacist.

If the same child bites repeatedly:

- A senior member of staff will discuss the matter with the parents and work with them to determine strategies which can be consistently implemented across home and nursery.
- A practitioner will work with the child in small groups and 1:1 to discuss the implications of biting and give the child alternative strategies – e.g. if they are biting to fulfill a sensory need the child may be offered something appropriate to bite, if they are biting because they are struggling to communicate that practitioner will help the child find more appropriate ways to communicate.
- The child who is biting will be closely supervised, however, we are not able to offer 1:1 supervision at all times; this would not be beneficial to the child and would not prevent all bites.
- An ABC Chart will be initiated and all biting incidents will be recorded detailing what happened leading up to the bite,

the incident itself and what the consequence was. These forms will then be used to try and determine patterns or triggers.

- If age related strategies have been implemented for a reasonable amount of time, and the biting is still continuing, we will seek support from outside agencies including the Local Authority, Health Service and SEND Support team.
- Exclusion would only be contemplated in extreme circumstances and with the support of Central Bedfordshire Council's School Readiness and Childcare Team.