

# Biting Policy

Biting is a normal developmental phase for infants and toddlers. Children bite for different reasons at different ages.

## **Possible reasons for biting**

- In babies, biting is usually experimental
- Teething frustration due to lack of speech
- Boredom, attention seeking and tiredness
- Over excitement
- A dispute caused by two children wanting the same toy

## **Our Procedure for dealing with a bitten child:**

- Giving toys or cuddles, TLC and reassurance while assessing the damage
- Applying a cold compress on the bitten area
- Comforting the child until they are ready to play again
- Completing the accident book with details of the date and time, whilst maintaining confidentiality
- Speaking to the parents at the end of the session and ask them to read and sign the accident book

## **Maintain confidentiality**

- Speaking to the parents at the end of the session and ask them to read and sign the accident book.
- Parents can sometimes be upset that their child has been bitten, especially if it occurs more than once. Reassure them that the staff will work together to be extra supportive towards their child

## **Our Procedure for dealing with a child who bites:**

- Calmly taking the child away from the situation
- Explaining that biting is not nice and that it hurts, point out that the bitten child is upset
- Encouraging the child to apologise to the bitten child, to say 'sorry' or give a hug
- Confidentiality procedures will be respected and parents reassured that biting is just a phase and that the child will grow out of it, work with the parent offering suggestions on prevention.

## **Methods on Preventing of biting:**

- Being aware of the reasons for biting, be constantly vigilant and aware of the children's needs to prevent boredom or disputes over toys, direct the child in their play
- Offering soother rings to older toddlers who may be teething
- Once a child is known to be going through a biting phase we will make sure all the staff are aware of the child, work as a team to prevent further incidents and if a child is always on the receiving end, being extra vigilant
- Avoid overreacting to a child who needs a little nurturing will only compound the problem
- The child may be shadowed on a one to one basis and/or kept away from the child who is being persistently bitten