



## Biting Policy

1.	<b>Introduction</b> <p>Biting is a common behaviour that some children go through. This is part of some children's developmental stage. Young children do not have the coping mechanisms, nor the self-regulation skills which adults and older children have that help us to diffuse and express our emotions in socially acceptable ways.</p> <p>Loughborough Nursery aim to handle any biting incident with respect for all involved. It is our policy to deal with each biting incident individually.</p>
2.	<b>Why do some children bite?</b>
2.a	<b>Teething</b> – children sometimes bite during this stage as biting or chewing can relieve the pain and discomfort caused by swelling gums.
2.b	<b>Exploration</b> – babies and young children use their sense to explore the world around them, sometimes they may not understand the difference between gnawing on a toy and biting someone
2.c	<b>Attention</b> – sometimes if a child feels that they are in a situation where they are not receiving enough attention they may result to biting as this can be a quick way of gaining attention from others.
2.d	<b>Frustration</b> – a number of things can frustrate children such as not having to vocabulary to express themselves clearly. This can lead to biting being used as a way of dealing with this frustration.
3.	<b>What happens when a biting incident occurs?</b>
3.a	<p>The child that has been bitten will be comforted and first aid will be given if necessary. If the skin is broken, we will contact the parent/carers. If possible, the child who has been hurt will be comforted in front of the child that has bitten. This is to teach the child who bit that they will not gain attention from the incident. An accident form will be written and parents/carers of the child who was hurt will be informed of the incident upon collection (if not already contacted).</p>
3.b	<p>An incident form will be written for the child who has bitten and will be shared with parents/guardians upon collection. The purpose of informing the parent/carers is to see if the parents/guardians are experiencing the same behaviour at home. This also provides the parent/carers with the opportunity to gain support and advice from The Nursery Practitioners.</p>



<b>3.c</b>	We will talk to the child that has bitten, age appropriately, explaining that biting is not kind and that it hurts others. We will help the child to explore other ways to express themselves and deal with situations. We will encourage the child to take part in positive play with the child they have bitten after the incident.
<b>3.d</b>	We will not discuss with parents/guardians about who was involved in the incident.
<b>3.e</b>	Incident forms will be reviewed by the Nursery Manager and if a child is showing a pattern of constant biting a meeting will be arranged with the parents/guardians. During this meeting we will discuss any changes to the child's environment that may have caused the behaviour. The outcome of the meeting may result in shadowing the child or observing them to look out for any triggers.
<b>3.f</b>	In extreme cases we may ask parents to work with the settings Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) or seek professional advice from our Area SENCo.
<b>4.</b>	We are committed to not only dealing with biting when the incident occurs but also in finding methods of prevention: keeping children active, working in smaller groups, observing and shadowing a child and offering soothing activities are all designed to lessen aggression. It is vitally important for all parties involved to work closely together. As each child is an individual, each case will be different. We encourage any parent/guardian to speak to their child's key person or The Nursery Manager if they have any questions regarding biting.

This policy was created by: Miss C Brindley

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