

BITING POLICY

Although distressing to staff and parents, biting is acknowledged as a fairly common occurrence amongst young children, especially as they are very curious and still learning how to communicate with one another. Most incidents are very quick and often occur unexpectedly.

We try to prevent biting by implementing the following measures:

- Our rooms are well staffed and children are supervised at all times
- Children have access to a range of toys and activities
- Indoor and outdoor play are encouraged so that children can express themselves in different ways and also exercise
- Regular meals and snacks are provided to help prevent hunger
- Younger children have a sleep or rest after lunch to prevent over-tiredness
- Children are given clear boundaries and encouraged to share and turn-take
- Good behaviour is positively rewarded

If an incident of biting occurs, we always comfort the upset child and remove the child who has bitten them, speaking to that child in an age appropriate way. If the child is old enough to understand we explain the effect of their actions and usually children are encouraged to say sorry or hug the child they have hurt. Bites will be washed and an incident/accident form completed. In the event that a bite is particularly severe we will call the parents of the injured child. Both sets of parents will be told about the incident; please note- we do not reveal the names of children involved.

We find that incidents of biting are usually short-lived. If the biting does not resolve quickly, the child's keyperson will meet with parents to discuss the situation and decide upon the best course of action. There are many reasons why children bite and these might include developmental changes or changes in either nursery or home situations.

If warranted, we will ensure the child who is biting receives 1-1 care where possible and if they are biting a particular child we will aim to keep them apart until the situation has settled down. If the situation proved severe we would seek external advice.