

SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE REQUIREMENT: MANAGING BEHAVIOUR

7.2 Biting



Policy Statement

Many children go through stages in their development, where they exhibit behaviour that others find unacceptable. Biting in particular is a very unpleasant form of behaviour that is particularly prevalent in children whose language skills are only just developing and can often be an expression of frustration that they have not yet acquired the skills to express what they are feeling.

Procedures

If a child is bitten by another child in our setting our staff will follow the below procedures:

- Comfort the bitten child and administer appropriate First Aid.
- Explain to the biting child why biting is unacceptable, that it hurts the other child and show the mark or bruise.
- Remove the biting child from the circumstances that provoked the biting for a short period of time.
- We will always inform the parents of the bitten child.
- We will always inform the parents of the child that has bitten and explore with them their strategy for dealing with such incidents if they occur at home or elsewhere. (If their strategy was a direct contradiction of our strategy, e.g. Parent biting the child back, we would explain why we thought this was an inappropriate response.)
- To discuss with other staff members the incidents concerned and evaluate and monitor the situation for the future.
- In a small minority of cases where the biting is persistent to the point of serious concern, it may be appropriate to enlist the help of other professionals, e.g. Health Visitor, Child Psychologist, to look closely at any other contributory factors. This would only be done in consultation with parents/carers.

Staff members will not disclose the identity of the child that has bitten as it is vital to maintain the confidentiality of the children concerned.

We ask for your support in the event of a child biting or being bitten and hope that you will understand the need for our Policy and Procedures which are to safeguard the interests of all those concerned.

This policy was adopted at a meeting held by St John's Playtime Pre-school committee on 17th June 2009.

This policy was reviewed & updated on: March 2021

This policy will be reviewed again on: March 2022

Signed on behalf of the Management committee and provider:

Name of Signatory: Chris Coyle 

Role of Signatory: Committee Chairperson