



## Biting Policy

EYFS: 3.1, 3.2, 3.53, 3.54,

At Cheeky Monkeys Day Nursery we follow a positive behaviour policy at all times. We understand that children may use certain behaviours, such as biting to communicate their feelings and needs. Biting is a common type of behaviour that some children use to help them make sense of the world around them, and to manage interactions with others. It can be triggered when they do not have the words to communicate their anger, frustration or need. It can also be used to fulfil an oral stimulation need, such as during periods of teething or developmental exploration. Sometimes biting can be due to a Special Educational Need and/or Disability or developmental delay.

**The nursery uses the following strategies to help prevent biting:**

- Individual, one-to-one and small group times so that each child is receiving positive attention
- Quiet/cosy areas are provided for children who are feeling overwhelmed to go to.
- Lots of positive praise for good choices to support children to recognise what positive behaviour and play looks like.
- We will provide a calm area where appropriate when children show signs of anger and extreme frustration to support them to reflect and feel calmer away from the source/cause. (We refer to this as a calm spot for pre school aged children.) Younger children will be carefully removed from the situation and offered distraction techniques.
- Stories, puppets, discussions and resources are part of our curriculum to support topics around emotions and feelings including activities and stories that help support children to recognise feelings and empathise with characters and events

- Additional resources can be provided for children who have oral stimulation needs, such as, biting rings.
- Vigilant staff who know the children well and are able to identify where children need more stimulation or quiet times.
- Adequate resources are provided and, where possible, more than one resource or toy is sought to minimise conflicts. Staff will support children to take turns, share and problem solve effectively where appropriate.

Every child is treated as an individual and we work with families to support all children's individual needs. With this in mind, it may be necessary to implement different strategies depending on the needs of the child carrying out the biting. A consistent strategy can be adopted at home and in nursery to best support the child.

**In the event of a child being bitten we use the following procedures.**

The most relevant staff member(s) will:

- Comfort any child who has been bitten and check for any visible injury. Administer any paediatric first aid where necessary and complete an accident/incident form once the child is settled again. If deemed appropriate the parents/carers will be informed via telephone. Staff will continue to observe the bitten area for signs of infection. For confidentiality purposes and possible conflict, we do not disclose the name of the child who has caused the bite to the parents/carers
- Tell the child who has caused the bite in terms that they understand that biting (the behaviour and not the child) is unkind and show the child that it makes staff and the child who has been bitten sad and causes pain.
- Ask the child what they can do to make the 'child that has been bitten' feel better (this could be fetching them a toy or sharing toys with them, an apology or a gentle rub on the back etc.). Staff model being kind and gentle through interactions and play to further support children's understanding.
- Complete an incident form to share with the parents/carers at the end of the child's session. This will be signed and stored in children's individual files.
- If a child continues to bite, carry out observations to try to distinguish a cause, e.g. tiredness or frustration.
- Arrange for a meeting with the child's parents/carers to develop strategies to prevent the biting behaviour. Parents/carers will be reassured that it is part of

a child's development and not made to feel that it is their fault. Consistent strategies are the most effective when working with young children.

- In the event of a bite breaking the skin and to reduce the risk of infection from bacteria, give prompt treatment to both the child who has bitten and the child who has been bitten.

If a child or member of staff sustains a bite wound where the skin has been severely broken, arrange for urgent medical attention after initial first aid has been carried out.

In cases where a child may repeatedly bite and/or if they have a particular special educational need or disability that lends itself to increased biting, for example, in some cases of autism where a child doesn't have the communication skills, the nursery manager will carry out a risk assessment and may recommend immunisation with hepatitis B vaccine for all staff and children.

If biting continues and becomes a problem then we will follow our Promoting positive behaviour policy.

<b>This policy was adopted on</b>	<b>Signed on behalf of the nursery</b>	<b>Date for review</b>
26/10/2022		26/10/2023