

BITING INCIDENTS & POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Aim of the Policy

Liberty Kids Biting Incidents & Positive Behaviour Policy is in place to ensure Parents/Carers & Staff are aware of the strategies that may be employed within the nursery to manage the common issue of biting.

Many children go through stages of investigation in their normal development that others can find unacceptable or distressing. Biting is an example of this and is particularly prevalent in young 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.

It is important that staff and parents/carers work together to establish common strategies for addressing this behaviour both at home and within the nursery.

Staff encourage positive behaviour through role modelling and a clear strategy if biting takes place based upon the developmental stage of the individual child.

We aim to act quickly and efficiently when dealing with any case of biting.

The nursery uses the following strategies to prevent biting: sensory activities, biting rings, adequate resources and staff who recognise when children need more stimulation or quiet times. We will treat each incident with care and patience, offering comfort to intense emotions, helping children to manage their feelings and talk about them to help resolve issues and promote understanding.

Liberty Kids will follow these procedures in the event of a child being bitten:

- We will comfort the bitten child and administer appropriate first aid.
- Distraction and redirection methods will be used to manage potentially unacceptable behaviour.
- We don't verbally label the child who has bitten as 'naughty' and children's behaviour will not be a topic of discussion within the nursery room.
- The child who has bitten will also be comforted if upset as sometimes they may get a fright at the impact of a bite and feel upset.
- If age and developmentally appropriate the child who bit may be encouraged to apologise to the child/adult who has been hurt. Depending on age and stage this may be a simple smile and short hug.
- We will always inform the parent/carer of the child sympathetically that has bitten and explore with them their strategy for dealing with such incidents if they occur at home or elsewhere and ask them to sign an 'Incident Form'.
- We will always inform the parent of the child that has been bitten and ask them to sign an 'Accident Form'.
- Staff members will not disclose the identity of the child that has bitten so as to maintain the confidentiality of the children concerned.

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Liberty Kids will follow the additional steps in the event of persistent incidents of biting:

- We will discuss with staff members the incidents concerned and evaluate and monitor the situation for the future.
- The child's parents may be asked to meet with the Manager or Lead Practitioner/Senior staff to discuss possible strategies for home.
- If age appropriate, we may accelerate a room move for the child biting so they are mixing with older children that they may be less likely to bite.
- In cases where biting is persistent to the point of serious concern, we may enlist the help of other professionals e.g. Health Visitor or Early Years Contact to look closely at any other contributory factors.
- If all strategies attempted do not work and it is considered that the safety of other children has become a serious issue a 'Risk Assessment' will take place. Whilst the child biting may be asked to take a minimum break for 1-2 weeks from the nursery to try to break the cycle of behavior.