



## **BITING POLICY**

Biting can be an uncomfortable subject for parent/carer(s) of both the biter and the child who is bitten. The aim of this policy is to explain how the nursery deals with biting.

Please do discuss any concerns you may have regarding this issue with the nursery Manager. If your child is known to bite we would prefer to know in advance.

Children bite for a variety of reasons. This may be because they are teething, frustrated, exploring using their mouth, asserting their independence and wanting to gain control, may be of a toy or they could be stressed. It may also be because they want to gain attention.

The nursery will work with you and your child to establish when and why they are biting. We will observe the child closely to see if certain conditions or situations trigger the behaviour and then work with them to try and avoid the incidents occurring. This may involve altering the child's routine, giving them more one to one attention, purchasing additional resources so sharing is not such a major issue or if it is because a child is teething provide suitable teething resources.

A member of staff will ensure that if a child is bitten that they are comforted and given lots of attention. We will ensure that any first aid is applied correctly, if required, and the incident will be recorded in the accident/incident book and parent/carer(s) asked to sign it.

If your child bites then a member of staff will remove them from the situation. We will explain to them, according to their age and understanding that biting is unacceptable behaviour. For younger child this may be by tone of voice and facial expressions rather than lots of words.

It may be necessary for us to exclude the child from an activity and use 'time out' until they are calm enough to return. We will also encourage the child to apologise to the child they have bitten (give a hug or say sorry if they can) and work with them to develop strategies to help them deal with the reasons.

With regard to our Confidentiality Policy we will not disclose the name of the biting child to the parent/carer(s) of the bitten child.

**Many children go through a stage of biting, please don't be alarmed. It doesn't last forever!**