

Biting Policy and Procedure

At Monty's Daycare we follow a positive behaviour policy at all times. However we understand that children may use certain behaviours such as biting as part of their development. Biting is a common behaviour that some young children go through and can be triggered when they do not have the words to communicate their anger, frustration or need.

Our procedures

The Nursery uses the following strategies to help prevent biting: sensory activities, biting rings, adequate resources and staff who recognise when children need more stimulation or quiet times. However, 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 visual injury. Administer any first aid where necessary. Complete an incident form and inform the parents via telephone if deemed appropriate. 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.
- 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. the child is given reflection time with adult if developmentally appropriate to discuss their feelings and how to manage them. Complete an incident form to share with the parents at the end of the child's session.
- If a child continues to bite, carry out observations to try and distinguish a cause, e.g. tiredness or frustration and put a support plan in place.
- Arrange for a meeting with the child's parents to develop strategies to prevent the biting behaviour. Parents will be reassured that it is part of a child's development and not made to feel that it is their fault.
- 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 e.g. in some cases of autism where a child doesn't have the communication skills, the nursery manager/lead SENco will carry out a risk assessment for the well-being of all staff and children.

This policy was written during the month of January 2019 Kerry Allen (Nursery Manager), Naomi Washer (Deputy Manager) and Diana Baldock (Lead SENco) was present.

(Policy and procedure to be revised during the month of January 2020 spring term)