



Biting

Background.

At some time or other most children will go through a phase of biting. It becomes a problem in a nursery setting when children/staff are harmed. Research indicates that children may bite for different reasons. Bites hurt. They often don't look much at first, but bruising may develop later.

Action to be taken to support a child who has been bitten:

- Comfort the child who has been hurt. Administer first aid if required.
- Reassure them that they are not in trouble.
- Let this child know that the child who bit them will probably come to say sorry. (The child needs to know that when s/he is approached again by the same child who has just hurt him/her, that s/he need not feel afraid) Support the child until this apology has been made.
- Once settled, reintroduce the child to a suitable activity.
- Complete an accident form
- Inform line manager & other members of that staff team. This should not be done within earshot of the children.
- Inform parents/carers when they come to collect their child. This should not be done in the presence of the children. If the bite is a nasty one, parents/carers should be informed by telephone before they come to collect their child. In the interest of confidentiality, staff must not give the name of the child who inflicted the bite, although it is accepted that children may tell parents/carers themselves who it was.

Action to be taken to support the child who has bitten:

- Without fuss, move him/her away from the main group, to a quiet corner.
- Calmly but firmly explain to the child that what they have just done has hurt someone. Explain that we do not do this. (Explanation needs to be appropriate to the child's age & stage of development)
- Encourage the child to say sorry to the child he has hurt.
- Find a suitable alternative activity for this child for up to 5 minutes. (Your knowledge of the children will guide you as to how long is suitable for each child) After this period of time the child can be told s/he can now choose what s/he would like to do (within the usual parameters).
- Complete an incident report sheet.
- Monitor the behaviour of this child for the remainder of the day / week / month.
- Follow guidelines as set out in Behaviour Policy, giving praise for good behaviour.
- Inform parents/carers when they come to collect. (not in the presence of the child)

Action to be taken when a pattern of biting develops

- Keep parents/carers informed of all instances.
- Set shadowing in place.
- Invite parents/carers in for a meeting to develop an action plan (with parents/carers, keyworker and a senior member of staff).



- Ensure all staff are aware of the situation and know what to do.
- Ensure all students have knowledge of the situation.
- Complete record sheets which may help to identify a 'trigger'
- Keep line manager informed
- Follow Behaviour Policy

Action to be taken when a member of staff is bitten:

- Complete accident book.