



Biting Policy

Biting is a common behaviour that some young children go through. This is can be part of some children's developmental stage where they do not yet have the words to communicate their anger, frustration or individual needs. At St Bernards we follow our positive behaviour policy to promote positive behaviour at all times.

Strategies to prevent biting include:

- Sensory activities
- Biting rings
- Adequate resources
- Stimulating exciting environment

However in the event of a child being bitten the following procedure will be followed:

1. The child who has been bitten will be comforted and checked for any visual injury.
2. First aid will be administered where necessary
3. An accident form will be completed, and parents will be informed as soon as possible
4. The bitten area will be monitored for signs of infection

For confidentiality purposes and possible conflict the name of the child who has bitten will not be disclosed to the parents.

The child who has caused the bite will be told in terms that they understand that biting (the behaviour and not the child) is unkind and be shown that it makes the staff and child who has been bitten sad. The child will be asked to say sorry if developmentally appropriate or show they are sorry e.g. through signs of affection.

An incident form will be completed and shared with the parents at the end of the child's session.

If a child continues to bite, the child's key worker to try and establish a cause, e.g. tiredness or frustration, will carry out observations. Meetings will be held with the child's parents and Jenny (St Bernard's Positive Behaviour Representative) to develop an action plan 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, this can present a risk of infection from bacteria. To reduce the risk of infection, prompt treatment may be required for both the biter and the bitten. This may include antibiotics, tetanus or any other form of immunization.

If a child or member of staff sustains a human bite wound where the skin has been broken they may require medical attention following initial first aid being carried out. This will enable the bite to be assessed to identify the severity of it, provide antibiotics and assess the risk of exposure to any blood borne viruses and establish the correct cause of treatment.

INITIAL FIRST AID TREATMENT

- Encourage the wound to bleed (unless bleeding freely) with gentle pressure
- Never suck the wound
- Irrigate with warm running water and liquid soap
- Remove any foreign body
- Cover the wound with a waterproof dressing
- If the biter has blood in their mouth they should swill it out several times with tap water (don't swallow the water).

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. autism, where a child doesn't have the communication skills, the setting may recommend immunization with hepatitis B vaccine for all staff and children.

Date policy was adopted	Signed by	Date of Review