



Biting Policy

At Little Explorers, we are committed to promoting positive behaviour and supporting children's emotional development. We understand that biting is a common behaviour in early childhood, often used by children as a means of communication or exploration, especially when they are still developing language skills. Biting may also be linked to oral stimulation needs (e.g. teething), frustration, or special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Preventative Strategies To help minimise incidents of biting, we implement the following proactive strategies:

- Providing one-to-one and small group activities to ensure children receive positive attention and engagement.
- Offering quiet, cosy spaces for children to retreat to when they feel overwhelmed.
- Using stories, puppets, and discussions to help children recognise and manage emotions and develop empathy.
- Providing teething rings, chew necklaces, or other sensory tools for children who need oral stimulation.
- Maintaining vigilant supervision and staff awareness of individual children's needs, moods, and behavioural patterns.
- Ensuring there are sufficient resources and toys to reduce competition and conflict.

We recognise every child as an individual and tailor our approach to meet their specific developmental and emotional needs. Our response to biting behaviour will be personalised based on the circumstances and child involved.

Responding to a Biting Incident When a biting incident occurs, the following procedure is followed:

- The child who has been bitten is comforted and checked for injury. Paediatric first aid is administered if needed.
- An accident form is completed once the child is settled, and parents may be contacted by phone if deemed appropriate.
- The area of the bite will be monitored for signs of infection.
- The child who has bitten will be spoken to calmly, and the behaviour (not the child) will be addressed. They will be told that biting is unkind and hurts others.
- Staff will support the child who has bitten to consider how to make the other child feel better (e.g., offering a toy or kind gesture).
- An incident form is completed for the child who has bitten, which is shared with parents at the end of the session.

- Staff will observe and record behaviour patterns (e.g., using an ABC chart) to identify triggers such as fatigue, routine changes, or frustration.
- A meeting may be arranged with parents to develop a joint strategy to manage and reduce biting, providing reassurance and guidance.
- If the bite breaks the skin, immediate treatment is given to reduce infection risk. Both children involved will be cared for, and any wounds will be treated appropriately.
- In cases of severe bites, urgent medical attention will be sought after initial first aid is administered.

Children with Ongoing or SEND-Linked Biting Where biting is frequent or linked to a special educational need or disability:

- The nursery manager will carry out a full risk assessment.
- An individual care and behaviour support plan may be developed in consultation with the family and any relevant professionals.
- In some circumstances, the nursery may recommend hepatitis B vaccination for staff and children as a precaution, subject to professional medical advice.

Persistent Biting and Risk to Others At Little Explorers, we are committed to supporting all children and understand that biting can be a developmental behaviour. However, if a child's biting becomes persistent and poses a significant risk to the safety and wellbeing of others, we will:

- Work closely with parents and professionals to implement targeted strategies and support plans.
- Conduct risk assessments to monitor and manage any ongoing risk.
- If, after all reasonable steps have been taken, the biting continues to cause harm to others, we may consider a temporary reduction in hours or a short-term exclusion as a last resort. This will only be done in the best interest of all children and after consultation with relevant professionals and the child's family.
- Any such decisions will be reviewed regularly and form part of a wider behaviour support plan, with the aim of safely reintegrating the child into their full nursery provision.

Confidentiality To protect the confidentiality and wellbeing of all families, the identity of the child who has bitten will not be disclosed to the parents of the child who has been bitten.

Review This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner in the event of repeated biting incidents or changes in best practice guidance.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Reviewed
24/01/2022	groberts	15th May 2025