



Biting Policy

At Little Explorers Day Nursery and Preschool, we are committed to promoting positive behaviour and supporting children's emotional development.

We recognise that biting is a common behaviour in early childhood and is often a form of communication, particularly when children are developing language skills. Biting may also be linked to teething, frustration, emotional regulation, or special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Managing biting behaviour is part of our safeguarding responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in our care.

Preventative Strategies

To minimise incidents of biting, we implement the following proactive approaches:

- Providing engaging one to one and small group activities
- Offering quiet, cosy spaces for children to regulate their emotions
- Using stories, puppets and discussions to support emotional understanding and empathy
- Providing appropriate sensory resources (e.g. teething toys, chew tools where appropriate)
- Maintaining vigilant supervision and awareness of children's individual needs, triggers and behaviours
- Ensuring sufficient resources to reduce frustration and conflict

We recognise each child as an individual and tailor our approach to meet their developmental and emotional needs.

Responding to a Biting Incident

When a biting incident occurs, staff will respond promptly and calmly:

- The child who has been bitten will be comforted and assessed immediately
- Appropriate paediatric first aid will be administered
- If the skin is broken:
 - Gloves will be worn
 - The area will be cleaned in line with infection control procedures
- The child will be monitored for signs of infection

- An accident form will be completed and shared with parents
- Parents may be contacted immediately where appropriate
- The child who has bitten will be supported calmly:
 - Staff will clearly explain that biting hurts and is not acceptable
 - The focus will be on the behaviour, not the child
 - The child will be supported to begin to understand the impact of their actions
- Where appropriate, staff will support restorative approaches (e.g. kind gestures)
- An incident form will be completed for the child who has bitten and shared with parents
- Staff will intervene immediately to prevent harm, using appropriate and proportionate physical intervention where necessary to keep children safe

Monitoring and Recording

- All incidents are recorded in line with nursery procedures
- Patterns of behaviour are monitored using observations (e.g. ABC charts)
- Triggers such as fatigue, routine changes, or environmental factors are identified
- Information is shared with relevant staff to ensure consistency of approach

Working in Partnership with Parents

- Parents will be informed of incidents in a sensitive and supportive manner
- Where biting is repeated, a meeting will be arranged to develop a shared approach
- Strategies will be agreed collaboratively to support the child

Children with Ongoing or SEND-Linked Biting

Where biting is frequent or linked to SEND:

- A risk assessment will be completed
- An individual behaviour support plan will be developed
- The nursery will work in partnership with parents and, where appropriate, external professionals
- Reasonable adjustments will be made to support the child

Persistent Biting and Safety of Others

We are committed to inclusion and supporting all children. However, where biting becomes persistent and poses a risk to others:

- Additional strategies, supervision and support will be implemented
- Risk assessments will be regularly reviewed
- External support may be sought

If, after all reasonable steps have been taken, the risk remains significant:

- Temporary adjustments to attendance (e.g. reduced hours) may be considered as a last resort
- This will always be:
 - In the best interests of all children
 - Agreed in partnership with parents
 - Regularly reviewed with the aim of full reintegration

Confidentiality

To protect all children and families:

- The identity of the child who has bitten will not be disclosed to other parents
- All information will be handled in line with confidentiality and data protection requirements

Safeguarding and Supervision

- Staff will ensure children are always appropriately supervised
- Staffing ratios will be maintained at all times
- Any concerns about a child's behaviour or wellbeing will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if:

- There are repeated incidents
- Guidance or legislation changes

- Practice within the setting is updated

This policy was adopted on	Reviewed
<i>24/01/2022</i>	<i>4th May 2026</i>