



7.10 Biting Policy

Policy Statement

Caregivers need to recognise that at times some children attempt to bite other children.

Reasons for Biting

- Infants – experimental, sensory pleasure, teething
- Toddlers – frustration, fatigue, attention seeking, confined spaces
- Older Children – aggression, deliberate

All staff will be aware of the first aid to take when a biting incident occurs.

A human bite which breaks the skin brings great risk of infection e.g. Tetanus, Hepatitis B.

For this reason we strongly encourage families to keep their children's immunisations up to date.

When a bite incident occurs

- Staff will check for broken skin
- All bites (whether skin broken or not) will be cleaned
- A cold compress will be applied to the area
- The families of the children involved will be informed
- It is then the responsibility of the parent of the child bitten to follow up with any other medical treatment
- If the biter is known to be an infectious disease carrier, or can be seen to have facial herpes and the victims skin is broken, then the parent of the child who has been bitten will be informed of this information.
- Staff will complete an incident form for each child involved which will be discussed with their parent upon collection. A copy will be given to the child's parent and a copy will be kept on the child's file.
- The child's key person will develop a behaviour management program for repeat offenders in conjunction with the child's parents, behaviour coordinator, EYIO and other health professionals. This will be done by completing an ABC observation to pinpoint triggers and outline an action plan for staff to follow after an incident.