



## **No Biting Policy**

**All staff members, volunteers, students and temporary staff must comply with the following procedure to maintain the Health and Safety for the children in their care, themselves and their colleagues.**

Children go through stages in their development, where they exhibit behaviour that others find unacceptable. Biting in particular is prevalent in children whose language skills are just developing and can often be an expression of frustration that they have not yet acquired the skills to express what they are feeling. Eventually biting diminishes with age. The staff always follows the same procedures in the event of a child being bitten. The procedure is:

- To comfort the bitten child and administer appropriate First Aid.
- To explain to the biting child why biting is unacceptable, that it hurts the other child and show the mark or bruise.
- Remove the biting child from the circumstances that provoked the biting for a short period of time.
- A manager will always inform the parents of the bitten child.
- Staff will not disclose the identity of the child that has bitten as it is vital to maintain the confidentiality of the children concerned.
- A staff member will always inform the parents of the child that has bitten and explore with them their strategy for dealing with such incidents if they occur at home or elsewhere.
- In a small minority of cases where the biting is persistent to the point of serious concern, it may be appropriate to enlist the help of other professionals to look closely at any other contributory factors. This would only be done in consultation with parents/carers.
- If the bite breaks the skin parents/carers will be advised to seek medical advice. The staff member asks for parents/carers support in the event of a child biting or being bitten and hope that they will understand the need for our Policy and Procedures which are to safeguard the interests of all those concerned.

**Reviewed 7/9/2021**

**Andy Setters**