

Biting

At Wood St Nursery we follow a positive behaviour policy to promote positive behaviour. However, we understand that children may use certain behaviours such as biting at stages of their development. Biting is a common behaviour that some young children go through and can be triggered when they do not have the words to communicate their anger, frustration or need.

Our procedures

The nursery uses the following strategies to help prevent biting:

- lots of sensory activities,
- resources that children are encouraged to bite and explore with their mouths, such as teething rings,
- a wide range of interesting resources in a plentiful supply,
- staff who closely supervise children and recognise when children need more stimulation or quiet times.

In the unfortunate event of a child being bitten we use the following procedures:

We will comfort any child who has been bitten and check for any visual injury; Administer any first aid where necessary; complete an accident form and inform the parents via telephone if deemed appropriate; continue to observe the bitten area for signs of infection. For confidentiality purposes and possible conflict, we do not disclose the name of the child who has caused the bite to the parents of the bitten child.

Tell the child who has bitten in terms that they understand that biting (the behaviour and not the child) is unkind and show the child that it makes the staff/child who has been bitten sad. The child will be asked to 'say sorry' if developmentally appropriate. Complete an incident form, to share with the parents at the end of the child's session.

If a child is going through a stage of biting, staff will record observations on an ABC behaviour form to try to distinguish a cause, e.g. tiredness or frustration. We will arrange for a meeting with the child's parents to ensure we work in partnership and develop strategies to prevent the biting behaviour.

In the unlikely event of a bite breaking the skin, to reduce the risk of infection from bacteria, give prompt treatment to both the child who has bitten and the child who has been bitten.

If a child or member of staff sustains a bite wound where the skin has been severely broken, arrange for urgent medical attention after initial first aid has been carried out.

In cases where a child may repeatedly bite and/or if they have a particular special educational need or disability that lends itself to increased biting, the manager will carry out a risk assessment and may recommend additional measures.

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