

# 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 injury; administer any first aid seek medical attention if necessary; complete an accident form and inform the parents via telephone if deemed appropriate. 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.

Explain to the child who has bitten, in age-appropriate language, 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 incidents on an ABC behaviour form to try to distinguish a pattern or trigger, 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 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.