

Insect Stings & Bites Policy

Aim of the Policy – Liberty Kids Insect Stings and Bites Policy is in place to ensure that parents and team members are aware of the strategies that may be employed the nursery to manage this occurrence.

Insect stings and bites can be very painful but aren't usually serious unless the effected person develops a severe allergic reaction, which is rare.

Stings burn and are usually caused by wasps, bees and hornets. If the area swells don't panic. The effected person may have an allergic reaction, but it isn't serious unless the swelling affects other parts of their body, particularly their face and throat. If this happens, call an ambulance. Otherwise treat it by scraping out the sting as quickly as possible, and then soothe it with a cold compress. Medication will only be administered to the affected area if a medical consent form has been completed allowing us to do so.

Do not try to grab the sting to pluck it out as this may squeeze more venom into the skin.

Common local skin reactions caused by insects;

- An insect sting - typically causes an intense, burning pain. This is quickly followed by a patch of redness and a small area of swelling (up to 1 cm) around the sting. This usually eases and goes within a few hours.
- An insect bite - you may not notice the bite (although some can be quite painful, particularly from a horsefly). However, saliva from the insect can cause a skin reaction such as:-
- Irritation and itch over the site of the bite.
- A small itchy lump (papule), which may develop up to 24 hours after a bite. This typically lasts for several days before fading away. Sometimes some redness (inflammation) surrounds each papule.
- A weal, which is like a small fluid filled lump and is very itchy. It may develop immediately after being bitten. A weal lasts about two hours, but is often followed by a small itchy solid lump, which develops up to 24 hours later. This can last for several days before fading away.

We will always inform the parent if their child has been bitten or stung and complete and sign an accident and/or incident form.