

Biting Policy

Aim of the Policy – Liberty Kids Biting Incidents Policy is in place to ensure parents are aware of the strategies that may be employed within a the nursery to manage the common issue of biting.

Many children go through stages of investigation in their development that others can find unacceptable or distressing. Biting is an example of this and is particularly prevalent in children whose language skills are only just developing and can often be an expression of frustration that they have not yet acquired the skills to express what they are feeling.

It is important that team members and parents work together to establish common strategies for addressing this behaviour both at home and within the nursery. Sanctions applied in cases of biting will take into account the age and developmental stage of the individual child.

Liberty Kids will follow these procedures in the event of a child being bitten:

- We will comfort the bitten child and administer appropriate first aid. This should include the application of Sudocrem on the bite (as long as consent for Sudocrem has been given on the *Declaration of Consent Form*.)
- It is important to acknowledge that it is the behaviour that is unacceptable and not the child.
- Distraction methods will be used to manage potentially unacceptable behaviour.
- Verbal labeling of children with such terms as naughty will not be used and children's behaviour will not be a topic of discussion within the room.
- If age and developmentally appropriate the child who bit will be asked to apologise to the child/adult who has been hurt.
- We will always inform the parent of the child that has bitten and explore with them their strategy for dealing with such incidents if they occur at home or elsewhere and also ask them to sign an incident form.
- We will always inform the parent of the child that has been bitten and ask them to sign an *Accident Form*.
- Team members will not disclose the identity of the child that has bitten, as it is vital to maintain the confidentiality of the children concerned.
- If a child bites more that 3 times in a single session, that child's parents will be called to collect immediately.
- If a child draws blood through biting, that child's parents will be called to collect immediately to take the child away for that session. The child will be allowed to return to nursery as normally at the next session.

Liberty Kids will follow the additional steps in the event of persistent incidents of biting:

- We will discuss with team members the incidents concerned and evaluate and monitor the situation for the future.

- The child's parents will be asked to meet with the Manager to discuss strategies for home.
- The biter will be 'shadowed' by a team member for periods of the day to try and prevent incidents before they occur and to try and establish 'patterns' in the behaviour that can then be avoided.
- If age appropriate, we may accelerate a room move for the child so they are mixing with older children that they may be less likely to bite.
- In cases where biting is persistent to the point of serious concern, we will enlist the help of other professionals
e.g. health visitor, area Special Educational Needs Coordinator or Early Years Contact to look closely at any other contributory factors.
- If all strategies attempted do not work and it is considered that the safety of other children has become an issue, the child will be asked to take a minimum break for 2 weeks from the nursery to try to break the cycle of behavior.
- Liberty Kids reserve the right to request the removal of a child from the nursery if the biting issue cannot be resolved despite the above having taken place.