

Biting Policy

Biting is a natural development stage that many children go through. It is usually a temporary stage that commonly occurs between thirteen and twenty-four months of age.

The safety of the children at the setting is our primary concern.

This policy is to help prepare you for the possibility of experiencing the 'bite'. Whilst biting is more common at a nursery setting than at home, a biting incident is not a negative reflection on the biter, the staff or the setting.

Our settings policy addresses the actions the staff will take if a biting incident occurs.

We would like to emphasise that although biting and aggressive behaviour is common and normal amongst young children, we do take it seriously. We work hard not only in dealing with bites when they happen, but also at finding methods of prevention: keeping children active, observing and shadowing a child and offering soothing activities, are all designed to lessen the behaviour.

This policy identifies the steps when a 'biting' incident occurs:

- Where possible we will intervene prior to a child getting bitten, however this is not always possible. a child may be playing in a tunnel or a house, when they are/ may be bitten.
- The child who gets bitten will be comforted immediately, the practitioner will assess the bite and apply a cold compress and deliver first aid.
- The child who has bitten will be removed from the situation and spoken to by another practitioner, firm verbal words of 'No Biting' will be initially spoken, then the staff member will use their behaviour cards. (please see achieving positive behaviour policy).
- The appropriate forms will be completed to document the bite (accident forms) and this will be shared with the bitten child's parent/ carers.
- Confidentiality of all children involved will be maintained (please see confidentiality policy).
- If a child bites more than three times in a short period of time Springboard will arrange a meeting with their parent/ carers to discuss the behaviour. SENDCo will devise a positive play plan working alongside the key person and parent/ carers. Meetings will continue to resolve this situation.
- The positive play plan will be signed by parent/ carer's and staff, and implemented both at home and in nursery.
- If no changes in behaviour has been identified Springboard will seek consent from parent/carers to seek other professional agencies.

Some children go through 'phases' within their development. This can be challenging. Springboard Nursery will work in partnership with the child's parent/ carer's and other professionals if needed to try and stop this behaviour. This would consist of a positive play plan in which the setting and parent/ carers will follow to work together.

This policy was implemented by Springboard Management Team: please note all policies and procedures will be reviewed on a yearly basis, unless there is a need to implement changes prior. Please note any updates and changes will be forwarded by email.

Date: 01.09.2023