

## **Biting**

Biting is fairly common amongst young children and it is one of the things that worries adults most. Biting is often very painful and frightening for the child who is bitten. It can also be frightening for the child who bites because it upsets the other child and makes adults very angry. Biting can make the child who bites feel very powerful because of the strong reaction that it brings. This feeling of power can also be frightening for children because they need to feel secure that their feelings can be controlled.

**Procedure we follow in the nursery** In the first instance we will talk to the parent / carer of the child who has bitten and also to the parent / carer of the child who has been bitten. This will be recorded on an incident form.

If it occurs again then arrangements will be made for the parents / carers and their child's key worker to meet and discuss ways of dealing with this situation depending on the age and stage of the child.

Plans may include tracking the child – i.e. following the child's movements to identify when they are most likely to bite; observations on the child to establish what the child gets out of biting or if there seems to be a reoccurring pattern or trigger. Behavior plans may be written. Extra help may be sought from the Early year's intervention officer, if this is necessary this will only be done with parental consent.

**Regular reviews** The parent / carer of the child who is biting will be kept regularly informed of what is being done about the situation. The child who has been bitten their parents / carers will also be kept informed **but will never be told who the biter is**. Parents / carers need to be aware that every effort will be made by staff to prevent children from biting each other in the first instance.

**Some advice** Plan ahead if possible to avoid situations where you know your child may bite. Respond promptly, firmly and calmly, show your disapproval, remove him/her from the situation and help him/her find another outlet for his/her feelings. Don't bite back – this is terrifying for the child and teaches the very thing that you don't want him/her to learn. Give your child positive attention every day to build up his/her self esteem. Reward good behavior.

**This policy was revised & updated on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022**  
**Eversley Nursery School**