

Michaelchurch Escley Primary and Pre School



Biting Policy and Procedure

Date Created:	Mar 2021
Created by:	Head Teacher
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Policy to be reviewed by:	Feb 2029

This policy aims to help children grow in a safe and secure environment, and to become positive, responsible and increasingly independent members of our preschool.

Statement

Biting is a common behaviour for some children under 5 yrs. Often biting is part of their developmental journey; it can be a reaction to frustration, an exploration with their mouths or an action when they do not have the language skills yet to express their needs.

Biting can often be painful and frightening for the child who has been bitten and also frightening for the child who bites. At Michaelchurch Preschool we follow our positive behaviour policy to promote positive behaviour at all times.

Aim

We aim to act quickly and sensitively when dealing with any case of biting. It can be very upsetting for the children involved and their families.

We will treat each incident with care and patience, offering comfort to intense emotions, helping children to manage their feelings and talk about them to help resolve issues and promote understanding.

Procedure

In the event of a biting incident:-

1. The child who has been bitten will be the priority and should be comforted and given reassurance.

2. Once the child is calm, staff will check for any visual injury.

3. If the skin is not broken:

Staff will complete an Incident/Accident Form for all children involved. This will then get emailed to parents/carers at the end of the preschool day.

If the bite has left a mark or bruising this can then be discussed with the parents/carers at collection time (as well as the accident form being sent home).

4. If the skin is broken:

- a. If the wound is bleeding it should be allowed to bleed as covering the wound can increase the risk of infection.

- b. In cases where the bite has broken the child's skin, a senior member of staff must contact the parent/carer of the child immediately. This phone call should be sensitive and give reassurance to the parent/carer and offer an explanation of the procedure which has been followed. You will need to advise the parents/carers to contact the child's GP. If the skin has been severely broken the child should be taken to Accident and Emergency immediately by staff.

5. The staff member who witnessed the incident will complete Incident/Accident Form for all children involved.

6. The parents/carers of the child who has bitten another person should be informed at collection time; this must be handled in a sensitive and confidential manner and not discussed openly in front of other parents/carers and children.

Parents/carers may ask the name of the child who has bitten or been bit. **Staff must explain that they cannot disclose this information as confidentiality must be maintained.**

7. The Nursery Manager must be informed of all biting incidents.

8. The child who has bitten will be spoken to in a way which is appropriate to the child's age and stage of development to discuss why biting is unkind and makes other people sad.

9. If a child continues to bite, observations will be carried out to try to distinguish a cause, e.g. environmental, sensory or developmental stage of child.

10. Where a child may repeatedly bite and/or if they have a particular special educational need or disability that lends itself to increased biting, e.g. in some cases of autism where a child doesn't have the communication skills, the nursery will carry out a risk assessment.

Potential strategies to support the management of biting incidents

- Staff may need to be vigilant around the child who has bitten encouraging positive play.
- Staff should evaluate the routine and judge whether it is meeting the needs of the child.
- Staff should plan activities to promote positive behaviour such as sensory and holistic play as well as our daily walks for children to let off steam in open fields.
- Staff should promote quiet times such as looking at books after lunch and circle activities.