

BITING POLICY

Biting is a common behaviour among children and can be a concern for parents and staff. Biting can often be painful and frightening for the child who has been bitten and also frightening for the child who bites. Biting happens for different reasons with different children and under different circumstances. This is part of some children’s development and can be triggered when they do not yet have the words to communicate their anger, frustration or need. At Jollytots we follow our behavioural policy to promote positive behaviour at all times.

Aims

We aim to act quickly and efficiently when dealing with a case of biting. We will treat each incident with care and patience, offering comfort, helping children manage their feelings and talk with them to help resolve issues and promote understanding.

Procedure

In the event of a biting incident-

* The child who has been bitten will be the priority and will be comforted and given reassurance
* Once the child is calm, staff will check for any visual injury. If there is a bite mark this will then be washed and a cold compress applies
* If the skin is broken the wound will receive appropriate first aid treatment. A phone call will be made to parents to advise of the bite and to let parents know that the skin has been broken so that the parents can decide if they wish to take medical advice
* If the skin is not broken a senior member of staff will inform the parents upon collection
* An incident form should be filled in for both parties concerned and management informed
* Whenever possible the child who has bitten should have their behaviour managed if the biting is reoccurring
* The child will be told, in age appropriate language, that biting is not acceptable and the child will be removed from the situation
* For older children, they will be removed from the situation and staff will discuss the actions
* If a child continues to bite, observations will be carried out to try and distinguish a cause. Meetings will be held with the child’s parents/carers to develop strategies to prevent the biting behaviour.
* The parents/carers of the child who has bitten another child will be informed at collection time. Staff will not disclose any names to either child’s parent.
* Where a child may repeatedly bite, staff will work closely with parents to try and work out strategies to help stop this. If it continues we may look at getting advice from outside agencies.
* If the biting continues for a period of time and we feel that other children are at risk we may speak to parents/carers about reducing hours or removing the child from the setting for a period of time. These procedures will be used only in severe cases.

Strategies to support the management of biting incidents

* Staff may need to increase the supervision of a child who is biting. This does not necessarily need to be one to one. It could be during particular times of the day, or by reducing the number of large group activities.
* Staff will make sure a child who is biting receives significant encouragement when displaying positive behaviour, and avoid excessive attention following an incident
* Staff will plan activities which help release frustration such a physical outdoor play and malleable experiences like play dough, gloop etc
* Staff will also provide cosy areas for children to relax and activities to release tension

This policy was adopted on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Director

Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Manager

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