BITING POLICY

Policy Statement

At Acorn to Oak, we understand that biting is a difficult situation for parents whether it is your child that has been bitten or your child biting others.

Most children will go through a biting phase at some point in their lives. The most usual time is in the second year, but some children do bite when they are three or even older.

In most cases children settle for a 'one off' biting experiment in which they may bite just once or twice and then stop. This period is often exploratory and can even be accompanied with a smile. The child is simply finding out what it feels like to bite.

When toddlers bite other children, it can be very upsetting for everyone. Biting can be linked to frustration and the need to gain some control. In the same way that some toddlers have tantrums, others do bite. From the toddler's point of view, biting is a quick way of getting another child to drop something that he or she wants. It is also a way of helping to relieve tension and express anger. Once children have learned to communicate verbally the amount of biting may decrease sharply as suddenly, children can try asking for things they want and are able to talk with their playmates as an alternative to biting.

When a Child has bitten another child

Whilst every effort is made to prevent biting from occurring within the nursery and staff will always be vigilant of the possibility, in the event that a child has bitten, we will adhere strictly to the following process:

- The child will be spoken to in an age-appropriate way about the incident.
- The child will be given time to 'cool off' and have time away from the rest of the group to reflect on their actions.
- Staff will remain calm and patient, offering comfort to intense emotions, helping children to manage their feelings and talk about them to help resolve issues and promote understanding.
- We avoid saying "no", instead we use phrases such as "that is hurtful" or "that is not kind" so the child who has bitten understands his peer/friend has been hurt.
- We help a child to understand the effect that their hurtful behaviour has had on another child; we do not force children to say sorry, but encourage this where it is clear that they are genuinely sorry and wish to show this to the person they have hurt.
- No more will be said to the child about the incident.
- A member of staff will write an incident form for Manager/Deputy & parent/career to sign on collection at the end of the day. The incident form will explain all details of how the incident occurred and the actions taken.
- The nursery behavior management lead will be made aware of the incident.

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- In the event that a child bites on more than one occasion, the nursery behavior management lead will support the parents/careers and we will work in partnership to understand the underlying reasons for the biting and to have a consistent approach in dealing with the any behavior management techniques.

When a Child has been bitten

In the event that a child is bitten, we will adhere to the following process:

- The child will be comforted.
- The child will be seen by a qualified first aider.
- The wound will be washed with warm water and cleaned with an antiseptic wipe.
- A cold compress will be applied to reduce any swelling or bruising.
- If the child's skin has been broken it will be treated by a qualified first aider.
- If the child's skin is bruised or broken, you will be contacted to be made aware of the incident and will be informed of any first aid treatment which has been provided.
- Once the child has been comforted and first aid treatment given, they will be re-introduced to the other child so he or she can say sorry.
- An Accident & Injury Form will be completed by staff explaining/detailing the accident/injury and any treatment provided. This will be signed by the manager/deputy and parent/career at the end of the day when the child is collected.

At Biting we will use 'biting books', puppets and soft toys to explain to the children about biting. We also reinforce positive behavior during circle time and on a one-to-one basis with the child's key person.

Confidentiality and safeguarding of all children in our care is of paramount importance to Acorn to Oak Nursery. Please remember that staff cannot give you any information about any other child in the nursery and will not disclose who has bitten your child or who your child has bitten.

We understand that if your child has been bitten or has bitten another child that this can be a distressing experience. We will work with you to provide comfort, our experience and reassurances in regards to biting to make sure that you are confident that all the children in our care enjoy benefit from a safe, secure and loving environment while with us.

Please speak to the nursery manager about any concerns that you may have in regards to biting confidentially in the Nursery office.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our **Achieving Positive Behaviour**

Source material used in creation of policy:
Pre School Learning Alliance Policies and Procedures for the Early Years Foundation Stage.
RBK Early Years Course Material.

Reviewed Oct 2020 to be reviewed Oct 2021