



BERKHAMPSTEAD DAY NURSERY

BITING POLICY

At Berkhamstead Day Nursery, we understand that there are times when children may bite, especially since a group of children are being looked after together. This is a behaviour that can be extremely upsetting for parents/carers, but many young children do bite at a young age. We aim to educate parents/carers that biting is a normal behaviour or phase for some young children.

Babies will often bite for the following reasons;

- teething
- tiredness
- jealousy
- frustration

Babies and young children may bite just to see the reaction, because they are experimenting and exploring their world. Biting can also relieve teething discomfort. Biting in young babies is not a concern, but we will aim to redirect this behaviour early on.

Between the ages of 13 and 30 months, the biting does tend to increase but should stop at around 3 years old. Many toddlers bite because they are frustrated and they cannot express themselves verbally. It can also be an aspect of assertive behaviour.

The situation regarding biting can be compounded when parents become involved. One of the most difficult things about having a child who bites is the reaction of other parents.

Unless a parent has a child who bites or has bitten, it may be difficult for them to understand that biting is a normal developmental behaviour. We will support parents in helping their child to stop biting using the strategies marked out below:

- By teaching the child to understand that biting is not an acceptable behaviour. We will do this by looking the child in the eye and saying firmly “no biting” or “stop biting, it hurts”.

- Staff will not laugh or let the child think that biting is a game, nor will the child who has been bitten be encouraged to bite back.
- The children will be separated and a member of staff will comfort the child who has been bitten and the appropriate treatment given i.e. cool pack applied.
- Any child who is bitten, will have the incident recorded on an incident form and parent/carer will be informed on collection of child.
- At no time will we inform parents/carers of which child did the biting.
- Staff will look at ways to teach the child who is biting more appropriate ways of communicating what they want to. We will acknowledge that the strong feelings that can be associated with being part of a group can be stressful for very young children.
- Staff will give praise and encouragement and be good role models.
- The Nursery will seek professional help if the above measures do not improve the situation.

Policy Reviewed – April 2017

Policy to be next reviewed – April 2018