

# Little Explorers Nursery

## **Biting Policy**

**Policy Adopted on 21/11/2011**

**Reviewed 12/05/2015**

On researching this subject in depth it is found that Children sometimes bite other children. Although not all toddlers and young children bite, biting is considered a normal stage in a Childs development. Children may bite for a variety of reasons, rarely with the intent to hurt another child. Karen Miller, author of

Things to Do with Toddlers and Twos, suggests toddlers may bite for any of the following reasons:

- **Teething:** Toddlers are often cutting teeth and it hurts. Chewing on something relieves the ache and stops the pain momentarily.
- **Sensory Exploration:** Toddlers are very good at using all of their senses to learn about the world. The 'oral mode' an important style of learning for continues into toddler hood.
- **Cause and Effect:** Toddlers are eager explorers. They are constantly studying cause and effect. Biting produces a predictable response. Often, the response is dramatic, i.e. adult responses and attention are immediate.
- **Self-Assertion:** This is probably the most common reason toddlers bite. It is a way to express frustration when they do not yet have the skills to do so.

Within the setting Staff are consistent in providing a stimulating environment and daily programme to help reduce the number of biting incidents that can occur especially with the toddler rooms. We provide access to teething toys; provide numerous sensory exploration activities, opportunities to explore cause and effect and offering toddlers options and alternatives to reduce frustrations.

In the event of a child being bitten, that child is immediately comforted and attention to the affected area is carried out by a first aid trained member of staff. The biter is told very firmly and in a firm voice that "It is not ok to bite, Biting hurts" The biter either verbally or with actions is asked to apologise to the child that has been bitten and then taken to another area of the room where no positive or negative attention is given for approx 5-10mins, throughout this time an adult will be close by.

Consistent with our Confidentiality policy, parents/carers are not told the name of the child who bit their child. Parents/Carers of the biter are informed of the

incident and strategies are agreed between the practitioner and parent on ways forward to prevent further incidences of biting. Separate accident and incident documentation is required in the event of biting.

We recognize how upset parents/carers may be when they learn their child has been bitten; however, we also recognize that biting is a normal component of child development. Despite our many concerted efforts to prevent biting incidents, they are bound to occur. We do recognise that even with the best strategies in place and all efforts made to prevent this happening they are bound to occur.

Little Explorers Nursery will not exclude any child because of biting.

Signed on behalf of Little Explorers Nursery by