

Fledglings Day Nursery Biting Policy

At Fledglings Day Nursery we work with children's emotional development, by providing them with the ability to express themselves through words instead of actions such as biting.

Biting might seem like a bad thing for a child to do to someone, however biting is a common behaviour in young children and is rarely used as a means to deliberately attempt to cause pain. Biting can therefore be quite common behaviour in nurseries as many children go through it as a stage of their development.

Babies/ children may bite for a range of reasons:

- They may bite to explore the world around them because their mouths are one of the most developed areas of their body.
- Babies/ children become interested in finding out what happens when they do something. For example, babies and children bang a spoon on the table, they discover it makes a loud sound. The same happens when they bite another child.
- They get a reaction whether it's the child crying or attention from an adult.
- Babies/ children may bite through frustration, because they want something from another child.
- It may be due to teething.
- It may be used to test boundaries with adults.
- Biting can also be used to help relieve tension and express anger.

Positive behaviour management is about using a positive rather than negative approach to encourage children to understand their behaviours, the implications, and the impact they may have on themselves and those around them.

Some of the most common reasons for challenging behaviour may be the baby/child trying to tell you something but not being able to use the correct words yet, or not being able to communicate at all. This can lead to challenging behaviour due to frustration, fear, hyperactivity or discomfort and it is important for practitioners and families to work together to support the child. Offering choices can be used to take conflict out of the situation.

Recording Incidents

- If a child continues to bite, reflections and observations need to be carried out to try and distinguish a cause or common trend such as tiredness or frustration.
- Recording who the child is biting and when, will help practitioners support the child at these times and minimise the number of incidents.

- A behaviour incident form will be carried out with clear next steps put in place and parents will be notified.
- The parent of the child who has been bitten will also be required to sign the accident book.
- The name of the child who has done the biting will remain confidential to other parents at all times.

Author

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