

## Policy

At St Paul's Pre-School we understand that biting can be fairly common among young children. It can be painful and frightening for the child who has been bitten, and also upsetting for the child that bites. If biting happens, we will pinpoint the problem and work with the child and parents to prevent further upsetting incidents.

## Procedures

Why do children bite?

- Infants and toddlers put everything into their mouths as it feels good to bite when you are teething.
- Toddlers and young children at Pre-School do not have the verbal skills to express themselves. When they are unable to find the words to express themselves, they may resort to pushing or biting.
- Young children do not always have good control over their bodies. A friendly pat can turn in to a push. They have not yet learned how to interact with others.
- Biting brings about a quick and dramatic response.
- Children experience many emotions, both positive and negative, which are hard to express and sometimes to control.
- A child's world can be stressful. Biting is one way to express those feelings and relieve tension.

What do we do if a child bites?

- We console and treat the child who was bitten.
- We find out who was involved, when and where the biting happened, what happened before and after, and record how it was dealt with.

When a child is bitten

For the child who has been bitten:

- We remove the child from the situation.
- Where possible the child is comforted by the Key Person, or another trusted adult.
- If necessary, First Aid is administered and an accident report is written by the person dealing with the incident.
- The accident report is shared with the parents.

For the child who has done the biting:

- The child is removed calmly from the situation, taken to the quiet corner and spoken to, where possible, by the Key Person.
- The child is told that biting is not okay, it hurts. We share the book, "Teeth are not for biting."
- After a short down time, we will redirect the child to other play.

## Addendum to Behaviour Policy – Policy and Procedures on Biting

---

- We will speak to the parents to explain what has happened.
- We will monitor the child's interactions with others and work on strategies to improve those interactions by modelling appropriate behavior and planning for supported partner and small group activities.

If the biting continues:

- Staff will meet regularly to discuss a strategy plan and share advice and support.
- The Key Person will discuss the issue at Supervision meetings and formulate a plan with the Supervisor. This will be revisited at each meeting.
- Part of the Supervision advice will be about how to speak to parents and share procedures with them. The Supervisor will offer support to the Key Person in this.
- We will generally reinforce appropriate behaviour towards others and how to respond to anti-social behaviour.

July 2015  
For review July 2016