



SHANKLEA EYFS

Biting Policy and Procedures

Policy Control Details			
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Biting Policy and Procedures

The safety of the children at Shanklea is our primary concern. The School's biting policy addresses the actions the staff will take if a biting incident occurs.

Toddlers bite other toddlers for many different reasons. A child might be teething or overly tired and frustrated. He or she might be experimenting or trying to get the attention of the carer or his peers. Toddlers have poor verbal skills and are impulsive without a lot of self-control. Sometimes biting occurs for no apparent reason. Staff members will maintain close and constant supervision of the children at all times.

Many children go through stages in their development that others find unacceptable. Biting in particular is a very unpleasant form of behaviour that is particularly prevalent in children whose language skills are only just developing and can often be an expression of frustration that they have not yet acquired the skills to express what they are feeling. Temper tantrums are another form of behaviour that most children of a similar age or developmental stage go through. Happily, just as temper tantrums eventually diminish with age so usually does biting.

The following steps will be taken if a biting incident occurs at our School:

- The biting will be interrupted with a firm "No...we don't bite people!"
- Staff will stay calm and will not overreact.
- The bitten child will be comforted. Staff will remove the biter from the situation. The biter will be given 'Time out' and an explanation on why their behaviour is not acceptable.
- The biter will be asked to say 'sorry' to the child that they have bitten.
- The wound of the bitten child shall be assessed and cold compress applied if needed and recorded on our accident form.
- The parents of both children will be notified of the biting incident. Appropriate forms will be filled out and filed (Incident Report).
- Confidentiality of all children involved will be maintained.
- The bitten area should continue to be observed by parents and staff for signs of infection.
- The biter will be given appropriate activities and support from all staff to help monitor and ensure the continuation of positive behaviour.

In a small minority of cases where biting is persistent to the point of serious concern, it may be appropriate to enlist the help of other professionals e.g. health visitor, area senco, to look closely at any other contributory factors.

We ask for your support in the event of your child biting or being bitten and hope that you will understand the need for our policy and procedures which are to safe guard the interests of all those concerned.