



Biting Policy

Aims

This policy aims to raise awareness of The Colour Box Montessori Nursery School procedures to ensure that every child is safe while in our care, to understand the reason why they bite, to act quickly and efficiently when dealing with any case of biting and make appropriate changes to the environment where necessary.

Policy Statement

At The Colour Box Montessori Nursery School we understand that biting is a common behaviour that some young children go through and it often occurs where they do not yet have the words to communicate their needs or feelings.

At The Colour Box Montessori Nursery School we follow our Managing Positive Behaviour policy to promote positive behaviour at all times. Biting evokes a strong emotion in parents and practitioners. In the setting biting is always taken seriously and staff do their best to ensure that it is stopped as soon as possible.

At The Colour Box Montessori Nursery School we acknowledge that biting is often very painful and frightening for the child who is bitten. It can also be very frightening for the child who bites and for the other children present. Staff are trained to deal with this situation and will follow First Aid procedures to relieve pain and injury.

Confidentiality Procedures

In the event of a child being bitten the following procedure must be followed:

The child who has been bitten will be comforted and checked for any visual injury. First Aid will be administered if necessary and an Accident form will be completed and shared with the parents at the end of the session. For confidentiality purposes and possible conflict the name of the child who has bitten must not be disclosed to the parents. If a parent finds out who has bitten their child we strongly recommend that they do not complain directly to the other parents.

Behaviour Management

At the end of the session the practitioners will inform the parents of the child who has bitten what happened and will encourage them to explain to the child that such behaviour is wrong. Practitioners will also recommend to the parents that they should not bite them as a



punishment as it sends a very confused message to your child. If the child arrives to the setting with a bite mark the Practitioner must make a record of it in the 'Existing Injuries' form and ask the parent to sign the form before they leave. The situation will be logged for Safeguarding purposes.

At The Colour Box Montessori Nursery School when biting occurs, we show disapproval and very firmly and calmly say something like "No, your teeth are not for biting", "No, biting hurts and it's not nice". We use gestures and facial expressions to reinforce the message to young children. We might decide to walk away from the child for a short period to emphasise our disapproval.

If the child who has bitten is not calm we will assign them to a member of staff to ensure that they do not try to bite the victim again. We make it clear that it is the biting behaviour that we disapprove of, not the child and to reinforce this by praising the child for their positive behaviour.

The child who has caused the bite will be told in terms that they understand, that biting (the behaviour and not the child) is unkind, and be shown that it makes the Practitioners and the child who has been bitten unhappy. The child will be asked to say sorry if developmentally appropriate or show they are sorry, e.g. through hugging or giving a cuddle.

First Aid Procedures

If a child or Practitioner sustains a human bite wound where the skin has been broken, this can present a risk of infection from bacteria. The victim will require medical attention in A&E after initial First Aid is carried out, this is so the bite can be assessed to identify the severity of it and see if further treatment is needed.

If medical attention is required the parents are to be given a copy of the Accident form to take to A&E. The nursery will contact the parents to see how the child is later in the day.

First Aid before attending A&E:

- **Never suck the wound**
- **Irrigate with warm running water**
- **Do not remove any foreign body (i.e teeth)**
- **Cover the wound with a dressing**
- **If the biter has blood in their mouth, they should swill it out several times with tap water**



If the wound seems severe the child will be immediately taken to the local hospital by the Nursery Manager and one other staff member (Key Person if possible). Parents and the Nursery Director will be informed.

Recording and assessing behaviour

If a child continues to bite, observations will be carried out to try to distinguish a cause, e.g. tiredness or frustration and patterns. Observations will be recorded on the ABC form. Meetings will be held with the child's parents to develop strategies to prevent the biting behaviour. Parents will be reassured that it is often part of a child's development.

Through monitoring and recording incidents we may identify particular triggers for the behaviour. Understanding why a child bites is key to beating the problem using this information will inform possible intervention strategies. Where necessary, permission will be sought from the parent/carer of the child to refer concerns and involve outside agencies and professionals.

Strategies to prevent biting include offering stimulating resources, providing sensory activities and an exciting environment. The environment of the setting will also be evaluated in accordance with the Framework for Intervention to establish any causes within the provision.

The first step in learning to control it is to look at why it may be happening. Not all children bite out of frustration or to hurt another child. Toddlers can't really understand how much pain they're causing.

Children may bite for a number of reasons including:

- **Curiosity:** To see what their friends arm may taste like or to see the reaction. It's impulsive and they don't mean to hurt. Often, a baby chomps on someone when they're teething
- **Seeking attention:** some children know biting is a way of getting others to do what they want or to gain attention. They don't always do this consciously, biting is a good way of getting others to notice, even if the attention gained is negative.
- **Emotions:** this can be frustration, stress, feelings of lack of power or as a way of showing love. Toddlers have strong emotions and sometimes don't know how to show it.
- **Copying:** some children might copy another child biting and think that it is a good idea.
- **Defending:** some children learn to bite as a defence, especially if they can't talk and will bite other - children whenever they feel anxious or threatened.



All our Policies & Procedures are crafted to ensure the highest possible standards at our setting and will be reviewed every 3 years or sooner, if necessary, in light of specific events or relevant statutory changes.