



Little Angels Day Nursery & Pre-Prep School



Biting

The staff at Little Angels deal with biting, an unfortunate but developmental fact of children's behaviour, in a consistent manner. We have liaised with the Islington Early Year's Team who referred to us a child psychologist who was able to give us guidance in dealing with biting in the appropriate way.

The child who has unfortunately been bitten is immediately comforted, while the child that has been bitten is spoken to in an age appropriate way and moved away from the situation. It is from here that they will see the child they have bitten is receiving lots of attention and re-assurance, Depending on the age and stage of development of the biting child, they may be involved in giving comfort to the bitten child, and their actions explained by a member of staff.

The incident, once reported to a manager or senior member of staff, is then written up in the accident book this has a brief explanation of the event as well as action taken. The parents of both children involved in the incident are informed when collecting the child and asked to sign the accident book as acknowledgement of the incident. We never disclose the name of the child who has bitten or the child who has been bitten for reasons of confidentiality.

If the child becomes consistent in this behaviour a 'Behaviour Monitoring Form' will be put into place. This is to help monitor the child's behaviour as well as trying to outline the reason for the behaviour. This will be carried out by the child's key person and the Behaviour Management Officers, Morwenna Curran at Highgate, Michelle Moore at Highbury and Harriet Gladman. The Room Senior will also oversee this. The key person will shadow the child to support them, avoiding them getting into situations where biting is likely to occur, giving them positive praise and encouragement of positive behaviour.

The parents are invited to discuss any events or actions that may be happening at home or in the nursery, e.g. teething, feeling tired or unwell, or change in peer friendship, as any of these factors can contribute to a child's biting behaviour.

Strategies to support the management of biting

- We may need to increase the supervision of a child who is biting; this does not necessarily need to be one to one. It could be during particular times of the day, or by simply reducing the number of large group activities provided.
- Staff should make sure a child who is biting received significant encouragement when displaying positive behaviour, and avoid excessive attention following an incident.
- Staff should evaluate the routine and judge whether it is meeting the needs of the child. A good quality routine should provide experiences and activities both indoors and outdoors that have no waiting times. Whilst group activities should be for the benefit of the children and not as a holding exercise.
- Staff should plan activities which help release frustration such as physical outdoor play and malleable experiences like play dough, gloop etc
- Staff should provide cosy areas for children to relax in and activities which release tension such as splashing in water, digging in sand and using sensory equipment.

Hygiene

The area around the bite is cleaned with water and a cold compress applied. We have been assured this is the best way to clean a bite. If the skin has been broken, parents are informed and child should be taken to their GP for anti-biotics.

Last Reviewed January 2019

Next Review date January 2020