

BITING POLICY

Biting can be an uncomfortable subject for parents of both the biter and the child who is bitten. Hopefully this policy will explain how we deal with biting at the setting. Please do discuss any concerns you may have regarding this issue with us. If your child is known to bite, we would prefer to know in advance.

Children bite for a variety of reasons, and this can start by around 1-2 years old. This may be because they are teething, frustrated, exploring using their mouth, asserting their independence and wanting to gain control, maybe of a toy or they could be stressed. It may also be because they want to gain attention. It is not a spiteful act, but rather a means of expressing themselves where they may have limited language skills.

Many children go through a stage of biting, please don't be alarmed it doesn't last forever!

Procedure:

If a child bites an adult at the setting, he/she shall respond accordingly. Use facial expressions, words and body language to show it hurts. It is also important to follow this through with the adult removing themselves from the child and for the adult not to give the child attention, so the child learns that biting does not get attention.

We will ensure that if a child is bitten that they are comforted and given lots of attention and ensure that any first aid is applied correctly if required and the incident will be recorded, and the parents must sign.

If your child bites, then we will remove them from the situation and explain to them, according to their age, stage and understanding that biting is unacceptable behaviour. For younger child this may be by my tone of voice and facial expressions rather than lots of words. We will work with you and your child to establish when and why they are biting; this will be done by observing your child closely to see if certain conditions or situations trigger the behaviour and then work with them to try and avoid the incidents occurring. This may involve altering the child's routine, giving them more support. This may result in the purchasing of additional resources so sharing is not such a major issue or if it is because a child is teething provide suitable teething resources.

It may be necessary for us to remove the child from an activity and use 'time out' until they are calm enough to return. We will also encourage the child to talk with the other child they have bitten and apologise to them when they understand that their actions have hurt one of their peers. We will then work with them to develop strategies to help them deal with the reasons.

Code of Practice

At Happydayz nursery we encourage all children to learn through positive role modelling and by staff ensuring that the children that maybe at risk of biting others, have the appropriate supervision and to know that if they are unsure to speak to the Manager.

Sometimes a child may have an SEN, in that case, staff members must be on their guard and protect the other children at the setting.

All parents **must** be made aware of their child's behaviour at the nursery so that we can all work together to help the child understand what is expected of them and how they can do this on their own initiative boosting the self-esteem and widening their circle of friends.

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Policy written by..... on:(Manager of Happydayz Nursery)

Review date