



EYFS: The Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements
3.5

Managing Behaviour

3g.3 Biting

Policy Statement

- At Auden Place Community Nursery we understand that although unfortunate, biting is common in young children and has to be seen as part of a child's development. It happens for many different reasons, for different children and under different circumstances. These reasons include exploration, teething, attention, frustration and stress.
- We also understand that parents find this situation difficult to deal with so we aim to support the child and family through this period.

Procedures (Please also see Policy 3g.2 – Promoting Positive Behaviour for more information)

- The staff at Auden Place Community Nursery deal with biting in a consistent manner. We have liaised with Camden's Early Years Intervention Team who 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 bitten is firmly told 'no' and moved away from the other child. It is from here that they will see the child that they have bitten is receiving a lot of attention and reassurance while they have reflection time. This may be adapted slightly based on the age and stage of the child.
- Depending on the age and stage of development of the child that has bitten 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 on an accident form with a brief explanation of the event.
- The parents of the bitten child are informed when collecting the child and asked to sign the accident form as acknowledgement of the incident.
- We never disclose the name of the child biting for reasons of confidentiality. If the child doing the biting becomes consistent in this behaviour then their parents are informed and we discuss any events or actions that may be happening at home or nursery e.g. teething, tired, unwell or change in peer friendship, as all these factors can contribute to a child biting.
- If this behaviour persists, we may then start a Behaviour Monitoring Sheet, strategies will be put in place to help the child develop more appropriate ways to express themselves and the child may need to be 'shadowed'.

Shadowing

Shadowing is one of the ways we deal with persistent biting. There are three stages to shadowing and if the first one doesn't work, we move up to the second stage following discussion with the Behaviour Co-ordinator.

- Stage 1 The child in question is allowed to play on their own with a member of staff keeping a close eye.
- Stage 2 An adult will follow the child in the room. Please note, that if they are not at



- arm's reach at this stage, they are not being shadowed effectively.
- Stage 3 A meeting between behaviour support, parent/carer & senior room member to discuss moving forward.
 - Stage 4 The child stays with the adult and is not able to necessarily choose their own play.

Remember the staff member needs to talk to other staff in the room, so that if the staff member shadowing the child needs to do something or goes off on their lunch break etc. they must verbally and physically hand the role of shadowing over to another member of staff.

If shadowing and other strategies don't work and the biting continues, then the child may be put on the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) register temporarily and an IEP written up with key-person, SENCo and parents. Please see Policy 3i.1 - Supporting Children with SEND.

If in the unlikely event that the biting continues after this stage, then advice will be sought from Camden Early Years Intervention Team on how to move forward, and in extreme cases, the child may be excluded from the nursery.

Hygiene

- The area around the bite is cleaned with sterile wipes and a cold compress applied. We have been assured this is the best way to clean a bite.
- If the skin has been broken the same treatment applies at the nursery, but we will contact the parents as they can then make a decision about what they would like to do.
- We recommend that the parents apply some antiseptic cream onto the open wound when they take their child home.
- Any concerns following this should always be referred to the child's GP.

Parents

- Working in partnership with parents is a key factor to successful management strategies.
- The parents of the child who is biting will be asked to meet with the key-person and the Behaviour Coordinator to discuss the situation and have our monitoring system explained to them and will be encouraged to implement strategies at home. They will be kept updated of the situation throughout.
- We have a leaflet on biting available for parents on request, but will also specifically distribute it to the parents of a child that bites, and to those of children who have been bitten.