



Biting Policy

Biting is fairly common amongst young children whilst being one of the injuries that causes most concern and upset for parents and carers. Biting can often be painful and frightening for both children involved. We assure parents and carers that when they leave their child with us we do everything we can to ensure that their child is kept safe and supervised; however, there are times when we may not be in arms reach to prevent biting from happening as it is usually unpredictable.

Some children use biting as a form of communicating their needs and frustrations and can act on what they are experiencing at that moment in time. Younger children don't always have the language to control what is happening in a situation therefore may resort to biting as a quick way of gaining attention or expressing their feelings. Many young children are still learning to share and don't understand that their touch can hurt others; this is why it is vital that they learn through modelling adults and finding other ways to communicate besides biting.

Children like to imitate others, so if they see someone biting, they may want to give it a try themselves. At toddler age, the child doesn't think about the victim and that biting hurts but usually focuses on what they wanted in the first place such as attention or a toy. Pre-School children aged 3-5 may bite for different reasons such as; exerting control over a situation, protecting themselves against another, they like the sensation or they may just have extreme frustration and anger due to a lack of communication skills. Attention isolated incidents are likely to occur with children of this age but if a child frequently bites this could indicate other behavioural problems.

Moulton Pre-School ensure that there are methods in place to stop biting from occurring. We use intervention, we look at how intense and frequent the biting is and what the possible triggers could be. We try to teach children that biting is wrong and it hurts, we use the expression 'we are all kind to our friends and all our friends are kind to us'. We remove both children from the situation and often get the victim to tell the biting child that it hurt. We explain to the biting child that we don't bite and that it hurts leaving the child sad.

Children are encouraged to show they are sorry in their own way (dependant on age) however; some are encouraged to say the words 'sorry.' Staff will continue to comfort the child who has been bitten and a cold compress will be applied to the affected area. If the skin is broken we would clean this with warm water or a medical wipe then cover with a dressing. An accident form will then be completed and both parents/carers of the children involved in the incident will be informed.

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