

Biting Information Leaflet

Evidence suggests that up to a quarter of all children will bite others at some stage. At Poulton St Chad's Nursery, we understand that this is a difficult situation for parents whether it is your child that has been bitten or your child biting others. This leaflet will give you more information about why biting may occur, how biting incidents are managed and what steps we take to protect your child's health and safety while in the nursery.

Why some children bite...

- **Teething:** swelling gums can be painful and cause discomfort; this can be relieved by biting or chewing on something.
- **Exploration:** babies and young children explore the world around them using their senses, young children do not always know the difference between gnawing on a toy and biting someone.
- **Attention:** when children are in situations where they feel they are not receiving enough attention, biting is a quick way of becoming the centre of attention.
- **Frustration:** children can be frustrated by a number of things, such as; wanting to be independent and do things for themselves and not having the vocabulary to express themselves clearly. This can lead to biting as a way of dealing with this frustration.

What we do about biting...

We will work with you and your child to discover why your child is biting. This may have been an isolated incident, but we will always begin by looking at what happened just before the incident. If we identify a possible trigger for the biting incident we will then make changes to reduce or remove the cause. For example:

- We may increase the supervision of a child that is biting so that we can support them to find different ways to express themselves.
- We may encourage your child to take part in activities which help release frustration such as sensory activities.

What you can do about biting...

- We appreciate that if your child has been bitten or has bitten someone, this can be distressing but please speak to our team about any concerns you may have in a calm manner.
- Please remember that staff cannot give you any information about who has bitten your child or who your child has bitten.
- The key to putting a stop to any challenging behaviour is a partnership approach. Work with the Nursery team and support any behaviour management techniques and use them at home as well as at Nursery.
- If a child's recurring behaviour is having a negative impact on your child/ren's experience at Nursery, we will work closely with all involved to reduce and eliminate these issues. If all procedures are exhausted then we may have no choice but to re-evaluate if the Nursery is able to meet this child's needs.

What happens if your child is bitten...

- Your child will be comforted and reassured
- The bite would will be washed with warm soapy water
- If the wound is bleeding, it will be allowed to bleed and not covered to reduce the risk of further infection
- If the bite has broken the child's skin, we recommend that you seek medical attention. This could be through your GP or an Accident and Emergency Department.
- When you collect your child, an Accident Form will have been completed with the information about the biting incident and any treatment given. Useful information and contacts...

NHS Direct England and Wales
www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk or 0845 46 47

Health Protection Agency England & Wales
www.hpa.org.uk