



# Biting

March 2024

At Elsworth Pre-School we follow a positive behaviour policy to always promote positive behaviour. However, we understand that children may use certain behaviours such as biting as part of their development. Biting is a common behaviour that some young children go through and can be triggered when they do not have the words to communicate their anger, frustration or need.

## **Our Procedure**

The pre-school uses the following strategies to help prevent biting; sensory activities, biting rings, adequate resources and staff who recognise when children need more stimulation or quiet times. However, in the event of a child being bitten we use the following procedures. Staff member(s) will:

- Comfort any child who has been bitten and check for any visual injury. Administer any first aid where necessary. Complete an accident form and inform the parents via telephone if deemed appropriate. Continue to observe the bitten area for signs of infection. For confidentiality purposes and possible conflict, we do not disclose the name of the child who has caused the bite to the parents.
- Inform the child who has caused the bite, in terms that they can understand, that biting (the behaviour and not the child) is unkind and show the child that it makes staff and the child who has been bitten sad.
- The child will be asked to say sorry, if developmentally appropriate, or helped to develop their empathy skills by giving the child who has been bitten a favourite book or comforter, if appropriate.
- Complete an incident form to share with the parents at the end of the child's session.
- If a child continues to bite, carry out observations to try to distinguish a cause, e.g. tiredness or frustration. Arrange for a meeting with the child's parents/carers to develop strategies to prevent the biting behaviour. Parents/carers will be reassured that it is part of a child's development and not made to feel that it is their fault.
- In the event of a bite breaking the skin and to reduce the risk of infection from bacteria, give prompt treatment to both the child who has bitten and the child who has been bitten.
- If a child bites repeatedly the pre-school will work with parents/carers to support strategies, with observations and parent/carer partnerships we will identify triggers that enable a strategy to support the child to behave or communicate in a more positive way.
- If a child or member of staff sustains a bite wound where the skin has been severely broken, arrange for urgent medical attention after initial first aid has been carried out.



- In cases where a child may repeatedly bite and/or if they have a special educational need or disability that lends itself to increased biting, e.g. in some cases of autism where a child doesn't have the communication skills, the manager will carry out a risk assessment and may recommend immunisation with hepatitis B vaccine for all staff and children.

<b>Adopted on:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Adopted by:</b>	Sophie Mills, Interim Pre-School Manager Hannah Holland, Chair of Trustees
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2025