

# Egg Day Nursery

## Biting Policy

Biting is a natural development stage that many children will go through. It is usually a temporary condition and is most common between 13 and 24 months of age.

The safety of the children at Egg Day Nursery is our primary concern.

The Nursery's biting policy addresses the action the staff will take if a biting incident occurs.

Biting happens for different reasons with different children and under different circumstances.

The first steps the staff will consider are to look at why it has happened which may be:

- **Exploration-** Babies and toddlers learn by touching, smelling, hearing and tasting. Young children do not always understand the difference between gnawing on a toy and biting someone.
- **Teething-** Children begin teething around the ages of 4 to 7 months. Swelling gums can be tender and can cause a great deal of discomfort. Children this age do not truly understand the difference between chewing on a person or a toy.
- **Cause and effect-** Around the age of 12 months babies become interested in finding out what happens when they do something like biting and understand that they get a reaction from doing this
- **Attention-** Older children may sometimes bite to get attention. When children are in situations where they feel that they are not receiving enough attention they often find a way to make people sit up and take notice. Biting is a quick way of becoming centre of attention- even if it is a negative attention.
- **Imitation-**Older toddlers love to imitate others. Some children see others bite and decide to try it out themselves.
- **Independence-**Toddlers are trying so hard to be independent-“mine” and “me do it” are their favourite words. Biting is also a powerful way to control others too and is a quick way to get what you want
- **Frustration-** Young children experience a lot of frustration. Growing up is a struggle. At times when they are unable to find words to express their feelings, they resort to hitting, pushing or biting.
- **Stress-**a child's world can be stressful too. A lack of interesting things to do, or insufficient interaction with adults is stressful for children so they resort to biting to express their feeling and relieve tension. Young children are not always able to fully understand what they are feeling- they just act.

The staff at Egg Day Nursery will take into account all of the above and will follow the who, what, when and where method to pinpoint the problem.

The following steps will then be taken:

- The biting will be interrupted and explained that it is not nice to bite their friends.
- The staff will stay calm and will not overreact
- The bitten child will be comforted
- A member of staff will remove the biter from the situation and asked why did they bite the child and will be given time to reflect on what has happened
- The wound of the bitten child shall be assessed and a cold compress applied.
- The biter will be asked to say “sorry” or to give the child that they have bitten a hug.
- The parents of both children will be notified of the biting incident on collection from the nursery. An accident/incident form will be filled out. Confidentiality of the children involved will be maintained
- The biter will be closely observed to prevent it happening again throughout the session.

Egg Day Nursery understands that this is not a nice experience as a child or parent but it is part of nursery life and unfortunately even the best supervision, unless it is one-to one will not prevent some children from being bitten.

This Policy was adopted by Egg Day Nursery on (date):\_\_14/12/09\_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed\_\_\_\_\_

Signed by:\_\_\_\_\_BRWhite\_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_Business Manager\_\_\_\_\_