

POLICY STATEMENT

Bright beginnings Day nursery aims to create a positive environment, where adults manage and encourage positive behaviour that promotes children's welfare and development.

We aim to create a positive environment that helps the children to develop self-discipline and self-esteem in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement to enable them to flourish, develop and enjoy learning whilst making a positive contribution by engaging in positive behaviour.

Bright Beginnings Day Nursery will ensure that all staff has up to date knowledge of how to deal with children who are biting through staff induction, staff training and to keep in line with current guidelines and legislation.

OBJECTIVE

Bright beginnings Day nursery understands that biting is a common behaviour amongst children from birth to three years, we will set age appropriate boundaries and ground rules.

We aim to set these boundaries to help the children to be aware of the effect of their behaviour on themselves, their environment and those around them. Children need to have set boundaries for their own safety and the safety of their peers.

The staff will identify the external causes for the challenging behaviour of biting, so that further incidents can be prevented. The staff will seek to understand the meaning of the child's behaviour and discover together with the child a more effective means of communicating needs, wishes, and desires.

ETHOS & VALUES

Bright beginnings Day nursery believes it is important to think positively about children who bite. Biting is a form of communication, as biting is always a response to the child's needs not being met or coping with a challenge or stress. We will work proactively to understand the developmental stages of the children in our care, and their individual needs which will help the staff to prevent biting behaviour occurring.

Bright beginnings Day nursery will ensure that any child who is biting will be kept confidential at all times as labelling children as "biters," will harm the children's self-perception and can intensify biting behaviour.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

We will work in partnership with parents on issues of biting through sharing of information, ideas and strategies to ensure that all parties involved have a consistent approach to positive behaviour and are able to anticipate inappropriate behaviour and supporting children at these times.

Parents will be given a copy of the parent's handbook which includes both this protocol and the Behaviour management.

Parents will be informed immediately of any biting and be consulted on the decision of used within the setting and be given advice of how these strategies can be used at home to ensure the child has a consistent approach to the biting.

Parents will be consulted on the progress of their child's behaviour and how the strategies are working within the setting and discuss how they are working at home.

TRUST & SAFETY

Bright Beginnings Day Nursery will show the children how to keep themselves and others safe and have the confidence to express their concerns and fears in appropriate ways. This will be achieved through positive reinforcement, promoting positive behaviour rather than dwelling on inappropriate actions.

- Staff will never use physical punishment, handle a child roughly or use inappropriate practices.
- Staff will never use emotional punishment, humiliation, shout or raise their voices to children in a threatening way. Any person failing to comply with this requirement is committing an offence.
- If a child demonstrates biting, the key worker will record the incident on an Incident Form (C11); the parents will be informed of the incident and be required to sign the incident form. If any other parties were involved they will be informed of the incident.
- If anyone is injured this will also be recorded in the appropriate accident report book.
- The incident will be recorded on the individual child's progress sheet C3 to help the key person to monitor any further incidents and to help the key person to identify any triggers or external cause for the biting, so that further incidents can be prevented

- Depending on the seriousness of the biting, it should be made clear that persistent episodes could result in the company acting upon the right to dismiss the child from nursery giving one week's notice.
- We take hurtful behaviour very seriously. Most children under the age of five will at some stage hurt or say something hurtful to another child, especially if their feelings are running high at the time, but it is not helpful to label this behaviour as "bullying," although it may be inconsiderate at times and may need addressing using strategies.

CHILDREN UNDER THREE YEARS.

Common inconsiderate or hurtful behaviours of young children include tantrums, biting or smacking. Staff are calm and patient, offering support and helps the children to manage their feelings to help resolve issues and promote understanding.

The most common of the unacceptable behaviour in children under three, is biting.

If tantrums, biting or smacking are frequent, we will work with parents to try to find out the underlying cause- such as change or upheaval at home or frequent change of carer at home.

We have a key workers system to ensure a child's attachment figure in the setting to build a strong relationship to provide security to the child.

Bright Beginnings Day nursery recognises that there is a need for different strategies for children under three. We recognise that babies and very young children are unable to regulate their own emotions, such as fear, anger or distress and require sensitive adult to help them do this.

Common Causes of why young children bite:

- Don't have a strong attachment with a consistent, responsive Parent/ Carer or member of staff.
- Lack of language skills necessary for expressing needs or strong feelings.
- Are not being provided developmental appropriate care and guidance.
- Too many transitions throughout the day. I.e. Grandma in the morning, nursery in the afternoon then returns to mum at night.
- Overwhelmed by sounds, light or activity
- Need more stimulating activities, choice and access to materials and resources.
- Are they cared for in a large group or undefined space
- Are they over tired
- Are they teething
- Have a need for oral stimulation

STAFF ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Staff will build good relationship with their key children to enable the staff to recognise each child's needs and adjust the routines of the day to individualise care.

Staff will anticipate behaviours that are likely to occur and patiently redirect the children towards controlling their own impulses and behaviour.

To role model, coach and provide support to junior members of staff and students to fully understand the behaviour management policy and why it is paramount to have a consistent approach to being a good role model, setting good examples to the children and encouraging positive behaviour and interventions.

Key workers must record the incident immediately on the individual child's C3 - Progress Sheet and monitor any other incident to help to identify any trigger or cause to the biting.

Consult behaviour co-ordinator over concerns before discussing concerns with parents and agree strategies that can be used at home and at nursery.

To monitor strategies used within the setting and give parents regular feedback.

PROCEDURES FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE BITING

Staff who observes a child that is on the verge of biting will act immediately by using distraction, redirection or simply the close physical presence of an adult

If biting does occur, the member of staff will give the child who has bitten a firm "NO" and then immediately show concern and support for the child who has been bitten.

The member of staff will then return to the child who has bitten and repeat the firm "NO" and give a clear age appropriate explanation of why biting is unacceptable.

The child should then be put on "Time out." Time out is when the child is moved away from the situation to think about their actions. The "Time out" should be no more than one minute for each year of their age. (This is to be appropriate to the individual child's stage of understanding, development and maturity)

When the child has successfully completed "Time out", the adult should explain why the child has been on "Time out" I.e. if it is a young child with limited language and understanding, the member of staff should firmly say "NO, biting" and point at teeth. If it is a child who can understand the consequences of their actions, the member of staff should talk to the child about why it is not acceptable to bite and what different strategies s/he could use next time, instead of biting.

The child should be asked to apologise to the other child.

Positive strategies for promoting good behaviour.

Bright Beginnings Day nursery uses a range of strategies to promote positive behaviour for all children in the setting depending on their age and stage of development.

Some of the strategies used:

- Using praise and positive reinforcement.
- Encouraging sharing and negotiation.
- Staff, students and volunteers being good role models and setting good examples.
- Consulting with children when creating rules and boundaries (age dependent).
- Helping children to understand consequences of their behaviour.
- Reassuring children that they are valued as individuals even if their behaviour may sometimes be unacceptable.

LINKS TO LEGISLATION

Children Act 1989 and 2004.

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Conventions on the Right of the Child UNICEF 1989

Data Protection Act 1989

Race Relations Act 1976 and Amendments 2000

Employment Equality Regulations 2003

Every Child Matters- Change for Children 2004

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Human Rights Act 2000

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
13/08/2023	K. Mitchell	13/08/2024

