

BITING POLICY

Statement of intent

Little Acorns Montessori Nursery recognises that young children, for a variety of reasons may attempt to bit other children. This can be part of a child's development, such a teething and can also be triggered when they don't have the words to communicate their needs, frustration and anger.

Aim

Staff will do all they can to prevent any biting incidents, but due to the speed and spontaneity of a child this is not always possible.

Methods

Strategies we use to try and prevent biting include:

- Accessible teething rings and toys
- Sensory activities
- Biting rings
- A stimulating environment

Biting Incidents

In case of a biting incident the following procedure will be followed.

- The child who has been bitten will firstly be comforted and checked for injury. If necessary first aid will be administered.
- An accident form will be completed and if deemed appropriate, parents may be informed via a telephone call.
- The bitten area will continue to be monitored for any changes.
- Confidentiality of all children involved will be maintained and no names will be disclosed.
- The child who caused the bite will be told in terms appropriate to them that biting is unkind, and be shown that it makes staff and the bitten child sad. An incident form will be completed and shared with the parents.
- If a child continues to bite, observations will be carried out to try and identify a cause. Eg. Tiredness or frustration. A meeting with parents may be held to discuss strategies to prevent this behaviour, and parents will be reassured that it is part of a child's development and not made to feel guilty.
- If a bite has broken the skin, both the biter and the bitten child may need treatment.