



Allsorts Biting Policy

At Allsorts, we are committed to promoting positive behaviour at all times. We recognise that children may resort to behaviours like biting as a way to express their feelings and needs. Biting is a common behaviour that some children use to cope with their surroundings and navigate interactions with others. It often occurs when they lack the vocabulary to communicate their anger, frustration, or desires. Additionally, children may bite to satisfy an oral stimulation need, especially during teething or developmental exploration. In some cases, biting may be linked to a special educational need and/or disability.

Allsorts uses the following strategies to help prevent biting:

- Individual, one-to-one and small group times so that each child is receiving positive attention
- Quiet and cosy areas for children who are feeling overwhelmed to go to
- Stories, puppets and discussions about emotions and feelings including activities and stories that help support children to recognise feelings and empathise with characters and events
- Additional resources for children who have oral stimulation needs, such as teething rings or chew necklaces
- Vigilant staff that know the children well are able to identify when children need more stimulation or quiet times
- Adequate resources are provided and, where possible, more than one resource or toy is sought to minimise conflicts.

Each child is treated as an individual, and we collaborate with families to support their unique needs. With this approach, we will need to implement various strategies based on the specific requirements of the child who is engaging in biting behaviour.

In the event of a child being bitten, we use the following procedures. The most relevant staff member(s) will:

- Comfort any child who has been bitten and check for any visible injuries. Administer paediatric first aid as necessary, and complete an accident form once the child is settled again. If deemed appropriate, inform the parents via telephone. Staff will continue to observe the bitten area for signs of infection. For confidentiality reasons and to avoid potential conflict, we do not disclose the name of the child who caused the bite to the parents.
- Tell the child who caused the bite, using language they can understand, that biting (the behaviour, not the child) is unkind and explain how it makes staff and the bitten child feel sad. Ask the child what they can do to help the bitten child feel better; this could involve fetching them a toy, sharing toys, or giving a gentle rub on the back.
- 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 identify the cause, such as tiredness or frustration. Arrange a meeting with the child's parents to develop strategies to prevent ongoing biting behaviour. Reassure parents that this behaviour is part of a child's development and is not their fault.
- Comfort any child who has been bitten and check for any visible injuries. If necessary, provide immediate first aid. Arrange a meeting with the parent of the child who has been bitten, especially if the child has been bitten multiple times, to reassure them that the nursery is effectively managing biting incidents.
- If a bite breaks the skin, take prompt action to treat both the child who has bitten and the child who has been bitten to reduce the risk of infection from bacteria.
- If any child or staff member sustains a bite wound with severe skin damage, arrange for urgent medical attention after administering initial first aid.
- In cases where a child repeatedly bites, or if they have a specific special educational need or disability that may contribute to increased biting, such as certain cases of autism where communication skills may be limited, the nursery manager will conduct a risk assessment to determine what measures need to be implemented.