

Biting Policy



Nurture and Grow Childcare

This policy is written with reference to the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, particularly the safeguarding and welfare requirements and the emphasis on supporting children's behaviour and emotional development.

At **Nurture and Grow Childcare** we promote positive behaviour at all times. We understand that children may use certain behaviours, such as biting, to communicate their feelings and needs. Biting is a common developmental behaviour that some children use to make sense of the world around them and to manage interactions with others.

It can be triggered by frustration, anger, or lack of communication skills, or may be related to oral stimulation such as teething. Sometimes, biting may relate to a special educational need and/or disability.

Strategies to Help Prevent Biting

- Individual, one-to-one and small group times to ensure children receive positive attention
- Quiet and cosy areas for children to retreat to when overwhelmed
- Stories, puppets and activities about emotions and feelings to help children recognise and express feelings
- Provision of additional resources for children who have oral stimulation needs, such as teething rings or chew necklaces
- Vigilant staff who know children well and can identify their needs for stimulation or calm
- Adequate resources, with duplicates where possible, to minimise conflicts

Every child is treated as an individual. We work with families to support each child's needs, and our approach to biting is tailored accordingly.

Procedures Following a Biting Incident

- Comfort the child who has been bitten, assess for injury, and administer paediatric first aid as needed
- Complete an accident form and observe for signs of infection
- Inform parents via telephone if deemed appropriate
- Maintain confidentiality—do not disclose the identity of the child who bit
- Use age-appropriate language to explain that biting is unkind and causes sadness
- Ask the child what they can do to make the 'child who has been bitten' feel better (this could be fetching them a toy or sharing toys with them, a rub on the back etc.)



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- Carry out observations to identify triggers if biting continues
- Meet with the biting child's parents to develop shared strategies and provide reassurance
- Meet with the bitten child's parents for reassurance and to review strategies if biting is repeated
- If skin is broken, promptly treat both children and arrange medical attention if necessary
- 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.
- Repeated incidents will be logged and monitored for patterns. A risk assessment will be completed where persistent biting occurs, whether or not a SEND diagnosis is present.

Health and Safety Measures

In rare cases where repeated biting poses a health risk (e.g. broken skin), the manager will consult Public Health England for advice. Immunisation (e.g. hepatitis B) will only be considered following professional guidance.

Staff Training

All staff receive regular training in positive behaviour support, paediatric first aid, safeguarding, and recognising communication through behaviour, in line with EYFS 2024 requirements.

Ofsted and Record Keeping

All records of biting incidents, parent communications, and support strategies are maintained and reviewed regularly. These contribute to Ofsted's inspection evidence and demonstrate the nursery's safeguarding responsibilities.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>27th July 2025</i>	Tracey Doidge	<i>27th July 2026</i>