Tots 2 Toddlers

Biting

Intent of Policy:

Tots 2 Toddlers wish to enhance children’s safety by summarising why children bite, actions taken if a child is bitten, describe behaviours to prevent biting incidents, and to outline the appropriate procedure.

Implementation of Policy:

* Focus your attention on the bitten child and remain calm and not overreact. Be prepared to quickly intervene to stop the biting with a firm statement such as, "No…we do not bite people!"
* Assess the bitten area, wash with soapy water and clean with antiseptic wipe.
* If bleeding, it will be allowed to bleed and not covered to reduce the risk of further infection.
* If the bite has broken or bruised the skin parents will be contacted by telephone so that you are aware that your child has been bitten.
* Apply ice pack to bitten area for 15 minutes then reassess area; repeat as needed for comfort.
* Assess bitten area of the child for signs of infection (warmth, redden area, pain) and include on the incident form for parents to sign.
* If the bite has broken the skin, under the Heath Protection Agency guidelines you will need to seek medical attention, either from GP or an Accident and Emergency department.
* All Major bites will be discussed with parents by the manager.
* Allow biter to cuddle, gently stroke or say sorry to the child who was bitten to promote appropriate social behaviour.
* Educate the child that biting causes pain and sadness for the other child.
* Teach children how to care for each other and interact with one another in a positive fashion.

Give the child appropriate activities (sensory activities) to help cope with the biting.

* Monitor the “biter” in an effort to redirect him/her as needed.
* Staff will not physically hurt a child or punish them for biting.
* The biter must not be deliberately bitten back in attempt to stop the behaviour.
* Staff will not place anything in the child’s mouth to prevent biting.
* Staff will not withdraw food, love, or keep child in isolation.

Reasons Children Bite

* Children learn by exploration and toddlers are “oral beings;” thus, they will place everything into their mouths, which may include another child’s finger.
* Children bite to relieve the pressure resulting from new teeth breaking through the gums.
* Babies’ do not have cognitive (thinking) ability to discriminate between animate (live) and inanimate (not live) objects. This means that the child may not be able to distinguish between a teething ring and another child’s plump arm.
* Biting is a innate reaction to frustration, hunger, or being tired because young children do not have the vocabulary to articulate these feelings/emotions and due to limited social skills.
* Young children bite in order to move children who are in close proximity, too rough, or too intimidating.
* Children bite to get attention, sometimes preferring negative attention over no attention.
* Children bite to protect personal space because they need a certain amount of space around them and do not want intrusion.

Preventative Steps

* A major preventive step is to keep group sizes as low as possible.
* Appropriate toys available in which children may bite such as teethers and rattles.
* Teach children alternative methods to express their emotions/feelings.
* Remind child to bite a teether when frustrated and not another child.

Please note: If all procedures are exhausted then we may have no choice but to re-evaluate if the nursery can meet this child’s needs.

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| Review Date: | Signed: | Next Review Due: |
| 01/09/2021 | H Waller | 01/09/2022 |