**Mucky Pups Pre-School**

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**Biting policy**

**Aim**

*The aim of this policy is to inform and support staff, parents and children about the procedures that will be put in place for anyone who has been bitten by a child in Mucky Pups.*

At Mucky Pups we acknowledge that biting is a common behaviour that many children go through. This is part of many children’s development and can be triggered when they do not yet have the language to communicate their anger, frustration, wants or needs.

We follow our promoting positive behaviour policy at all times and strategies are put in place to prevent biting include; sensory activities, biting rings (if appropriate), adequate resources, a stimulating and engaging environment and distraction.

However, in the event that a child is bitten the following procedure will be followed:

For the child or staff member who has been bitten:

* The child who has been bitten will be comforted and will be checked for any visual injury.
* First aid will be administered where needed.
* An accident form will be completed for the child who has been bitten, the parents may be contacted by telephone if it is deemed appropriate.
* The bitten area will continue to be monitored for any signs of infection.
* In the event of a bite breaking the skin there is an increased risk of infection so prompt treatment may be needed for the ‘biter’ and the ‘bitten’.
* If a member of staff of child sustains a bite wound where the skin is severely broken medical attention may need to be sought promptly after initial first aid has been carried out.

For the child who has bitten:

* The child who has caused the bite will be told in terms that they will understand that biting (the behaviour and not the child) is unkind, and will be shown that the biting has made the person they have bitten sad.
* The child will only be asked to say sorry if it is developmentally appropriate.
* An incident form will be completed for the child who has bitten and the parents will be informed upon collection. The parents may be contacted by telephone if it is deemed appropriate.
* If a child continues to bite, observations will be carried out to distinguish a cause, EG; tiredness or frustration.
* Meetings will be held with the child’s parents to develop strategies to prevent the biting behaviour.
* Parent’s will be reassured that it is part of their child’s development and not made to feel it is their fault.

For confidentiality purposes the name of the child who has bitten or been bitten will not be disclosed to the parents of the other child.

Where a child may repeatedly bite and/or they have a special educational need or disability that lends itself to increased biting, EG; in some cases of Autism where the child does not have the communication skills, the setting will carry out a risk assessment and may recommend immunisation with the hepatitis B vaccine for all staff and children.

A senior member of staff will discuss with parents or the child who has been bitten and who has bitten. This is to ensure a consistent approach is taken when discussing inappropriate behaviour or incidents.

Date policy adopted on: 2nd September 2021 Date for review: 2nd September 2022

Signed: J E Wills Position: Manager