



Blackhall Nursery Biting Policy

Evidence suggests that up to a quarter of all children will bite others at some stage in the preschool years. It is important for families to be aware that biting is a natural developmental stage that many children go through.

We appreciate that it is difficult for parents to learn that your child has been bitten or has been biting others.

This information will help you understand why biting may occur, how biting incidents are managed and what steps we take to protect your child's health and safety while in the nursery.

Why do some children bite?

- **Teething** – swelling gums can be painful and cause discomfort; this can be relieved by biting or chewing on something.
- **Exploration** – babies and young children explore the world around them using their senses. Young children do not always know the difference between chewing on a toy and biting someone.
- **Attention** – biting can be a quick way of becoming the centre of attention when children are in situations where they may feel overlooked.
- **Frustration** – children can become frustrated for many reasons, including wanting to be independent and not having the vocabulary to express themselves clearly. Staff will always encourage the children to 'use their words' if they become angry or frustrated but sometimes the child's first response is to bite when they are distressed.

What do we do about biting?

The Nursery Team will work with you and your child to try and establish why they are biting. This may have been an isolated occurrence, but we will monitor behaviour to look at possible triggers and consider carefully what happened leading up to the incident. Staff members will endeavor to maintain close supervision of a biting child.

What can you do about biting?

We understand that if your child has been bitten or has bitten someone themselves, this can be distressing. Staff cannot share any information about the other child and will not disclose who has bitten your child or who your child has bitten. We would ask for your understanding with this.

It is important that we work together with families to try and prevent this type of behaviour. The Nursery Team and Mrs Santangeli, Nursery Manager, will be able to advise you of any strategies being used and will suggest ways of supporting your child at home.

What happens if my child has been bitten?

- Your child will be comforted and reassured.
- If the wound is bleeding, it will be allowed to bleed.
- The bite wound will then be washed with warm soapy water.
- If required, the wound will then be covered.
- Staff will check if the biter has blood in his/her mouth as they could also potentially be at risk.
- When you collect your child, you will be required to sign an Incident form providing details about the incident and any treatment given.
- If the bite is deep, parents and staff should observe for signs of infection. If there is any concern, you should seek medical advice from your own Doctor as antibiotics may be required.

Useful information:

- NHS24Scotland
www.nhs24.com
- HealthProtectionScotland
NSS.HPSenquiries@nhs.net
- Care Inspectorate Hub
infection-prevention-and-control-in-childcare-settings.pdf (careinspectorate.com)
- Health and Social Care Standards
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/health-social-care-standards-support-life/pages/>
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
<https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights>

UNCRC -

- Article 3, Best interests of the child
- Article 5, Family guidance as children develop.

Health and Social Care Standards –

- 1.19 My care and support meets my needs and is right for me.
- 1.24 Any treatment or intervention that I experience is safe and effective.
- 2.8 I am supported to communicate in a way that is right for me, at my own pace, by people who are sensitive to me and my needs.
- 2.15 I am enabled to resolve conflict, agree rules and build positive relationships with other people as much as I can.
- 2.25 I am helped to understand the impact and consequences of risky and unsafe behaviour and decisions.
- 3.1 I experience people speaking and listening to me in a way that is courteous and respectful, with my care and support being the main focus of people's attention.

- 3.3 I have agreed clear expectations with people about how we behave towards each other, and these are respected.
- 3.9 I experience warmth, kindness and compassion in how I am supported and cared for, including physical comfort when appropriate for me and the person supporting and caring for me.
- 3.10 As a child or young person I feel valued, loved and secure.
- 3.16 People have time to support and care for me and to speak with me.
- 4.3 I experience care and support where all people are respected and valued.
- 4.11 I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.
- 4.27 I experience high quality care and support because people have the necessary information and resources.

Adopted on: 22/11/23.....

GS 17/11/23