

Bishopsteignton Pre-School Playgroup  
Horns Park  
Bishopsteignton  
Devon  
TQ14 9RP  
01626 777672  
Email: bishop.preschool@outlook.com



## Biting policy

When a child bites it can be frightening and painful for the child who has been bitten. Biting happens for different reasons with different children under different circumstances. The first step in learning to control it is to try and ascertain why the biting is occurring, and looking at the child as a whole to see if there is an underlying reason for them to bite.

Some of the reasons may be:-

**Seeking attention-** biting is a good way of getting others to take notice, even if the attention given is negative.

**Gaining control-** children may bite to gain control, for example if they want a toy or for someone to move out of their way, then they may bite to get their desired result.

**Frustration-** the child may have difficulty expressing their thoughts and feelings, lacking the vocabulary to communicate effectively. Or if things are not going their way, children may get angry and frustrated and lash out by biting.

**Copying-** seeing other children or adults bite during pretend play.

**Curiosity-** children may bite to see what reaction they might get from a fellow peer.

We recognise that biting can happen amongst young children and we understand that in time they will learn not to bite.

The following procedures will occur when there is a biting incident at Preschool:-

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The child who has been bitten is comforted and the appropriate medical care is given.

We show disapproval to the child who has bitten and give them clear direct instructions. (Say child's name) "Stop! No biting!" in a firm voice with facial expression and gestures to reinforce the message. We then encourage the child to say sorry or give them a hug after they've had the appropriate level of 'time out'.

The incident is recorded in detail for both parties involved and signatures are gained from both parents/carers at the end of the session.

At Bishopsteignton Preschool, the staff are determined to work with parents/carers and children affected and implement strategies to manage and prevent such incidents from happening.

Potential strategies to support the management of biting incidents: -

Try to find out what causes the biting by carrying out observations and recording them.

There may need to be increased supervision of a child who is biting.

Ensure a child who is biting receives encouragement when displaying positive behaviour.

Plan activities which help release frustration, such as physical outdoor play and malleable experiences like playdough.

Provide emotional support through a key person approach.

Work in partnership with other professionals who may be supporting the child/family to make sure strategies are consistent.

Signed	
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<b>Date</b>	
<b>Review date</b>	