



## Putnoe Woods

### Biting Policy and Procedures

#### Introduction

It is knowledgeable that some children may be biters at some stage of their development and can prove to be a challenging time for the parents / carers and staff. Biting can be an uncomfortable subject for parents of both the biter and the child who is bitten and must be dealt with in a sensitive manner.

Putnoe Woods have created this Biting Policy to explain how we deal with biting in our preschool environment.

The Management Team at Putnoe Woods encourage parents / carers to do discuss any concerns you may have regarding this issue with us. If your child is known to bite, we would prefer to know in advance.

#### Why do Children Bite?

Children may bite for a variety of reasons. This may be because they are

- They may be teething
- They may be frustrated
- Exploring cause and effect - the reaction to biting someone
- Exploring using their mouth
- Exploring their senses and / or sensory enjoyment
- Asserting their independence and wanting to gain control
- They may be stressed
- They may want to gain attention
- They may be tired or hungry
- Biting may be a way to express their emotions



## Roles and Responsibilities of Staff

The staff at Putnoe Woods Pre School will work in parental partnerships with the parents / carers and the child to establish when and why they are biting.

The staff at Putnoe Woods will;

- 1.1 Implement and adhere to Putnoe Woods Behaviour and Discipline Policy in conjunction with Putnoe Woods Biting Policy
- 1.2 Be aware of the triggers that may cause the child to bite
- 1.3 observe the child closely to see if certain conditions or situations trigger the behavior
- 1.4 work with the child and avoid the incidents occurring
- 1.5 deal with the biting issue in a sensitive manner and explain the Biting Policy to parents / carers
- 1.6 work in parental partnerships and offer support with regard to strategies used to deter the child from biting and discuss how these may be implemented in the home environment making considerations to altering the child's routine, giving them more one to one attention, purchasing additional resources so sharing is not such an issue or if it is because a child is teething, provide suitable teething resources.
- 1.7 Staff will ensure that if a child is bitten that they take priority and are comforted and given lots of attention and moved away from where the incident has taken place
- 1.8 Staff will encourage the child who has bitten to sit where the incident has taken place
- 1.9 Staff will explain to them, according to their age and understanding that biting is unacceptable behaviour. For younger child this may be by our tone of voice and facial expressions rather than lots of words. It may be necessary for us to use a one minute timer before the child can go and play



- 1.10 Staff will ensure that any first aid is administered appropriately and an accident form is completed for the injured child and signed by the parents / carers
- 1.11 Staff will ensure that they wear PPE when administering first aid
- 1.12 Staff will ensure an Incident Form is completed with regard to the child who has bitten and signed by the parents / carers
- 1.13 Staff will avoid excessive attention following a biting incident and will ensure that any positive behavior is praised
- 1.14 Staff may need to increase the supervision of the child who is biting
- 1.15 Staff will make considerations with regard to the individual needs i.e. provide more opportunities to release frustrations through physical activities
- 1.16 Through observations and recurring biting incidents and the child continues to display these behaviours, the child's keyperson and SEND and Behaviour Coordinator will sensitively discuss an action plan and ABC Behaviour Plan
- 1.17 An ABC Behaviour Plan will be completed with the consent of the parents and a copy sent home
- 1.18 The ABC Behaviour Plan will be kept within the individuals file
- 1.19 The ABC Behaviour Plan will be reviewed every 6 weeks to discuss ongoing support and strategies until the child ceases to continue biting
- 1.20 If the biting continues we will discuss with the parent how we can support them further with the involvement of other professionals and multi agencies such as Early Help, Behaviour Management
- 1.21 Staff will use the '123 Magic' behavior strategy to deal with the unwanted behaviours

### 123 Magic

With advice from the Child Development Centre, in circumstances of 'severe' or repetitive unwanted behaviours the preschool have been advised to use '1,2,3 Magic' method of behaviour management.



- When the behaviour occurs we hold up 1 finger and say 'That's 1' - we wait 5 seconds to see if the behaviour continues
- If the behaviour reoccurs we hold up 2 fingers and say 'That's 2' - we wait 5 seconds to see if the behaviour
- If the behaviour reoccurs we hold up 3 fingers and say 'that's 3, time out'
- It is an automatic 3 for hitting, spiting, offensive language and biting
- Time out is NOT a punishment it is a consequence for not doing as asked
- The child is required to sit for 1 minute of their age in a safe and appropriate place

As a preschool we endeavour to prevent unwanted behaviours and educate and teach children good behaviours through our values and golden rules, however in certain circumstances we may need to apply the '123 Magic' method.

Many children go through a stage of biting, please don't be alarmed it doesn't last forever!

### Notification of Biting Incidents

Depending on the severity of the bite mark the following actions may take place:

- 1.22 Should a biting incident take place and the child's skin has been broken then a member of management **MUST** inform the parents of the incident. First Aid will also be administered by a qualified first aider. This contact will be of a sensitive nature and an explanation of the Biting Policy and Procedures will be explained. If absolutely necessary it may be advised to seek medical attention. The incident will be recorded on an Accident Form and the parents will be asked to sign it when they collect their child
- 1.23 Should a biting incident take place and the child's skin is not broken but left bruised and marked, First Aid will be administered by a qualified first aider and the injury will be monitored for the next hour. If the bruising or marks do not go down then the parents **MUST** be contacted. If there is no obvious bruising or marks then the parents can be informed



at collection time. The incident will be recorded on an Accident Form and the parents will be asked to sign it when they collect their child

- 1.24 At collection time the parents of the child who has been biting will be informed in a sensitive manner and away from other parents. They will also be required to sign the incident form
- 1.25 Confidentiality must be maintained and the biter or children who have been bitten must not be disclosed by a member of staff to either sets of parents

**Putnoe Woods is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, employees, students, volunteers, trustees and parents and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

Date of Policy: September 2014	Created By: Jo Skelton	
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Review Date	Reviewer	Amendments
November 2015	Jo Skelton	
September 2016	Jo Skelton	123 Magic