



### **Biting Policy for Puss 'n' Boots Day Nursery.**

Biting is a natural developmental stage that many children go through. It is usually a temporary stage that is most common between thirteen and twenty four months of age. The safety of all children within Puss 'n' Boots Day Nursery is our primary concern. The setting's biting policy addresses the actions that staff will take if a biting incident occurs.

Some children bite others for many different reasons, a child may be teething, feel tired or frustrated. There may be minimal communication and language opportunities or less developed speech. The child may be trying to gain attention of peers or practitioners. Toddlers may have poor verbal skills or be impulsive without a lot of self control. Sometimes biting can occur with no obvious or apparent reason. Practitioners will encourage 'use of words' or other forms of communication such as Makaton or picture story board and sequencing.

Practitioners remain close and keep constant supervision of all children. If behaviour of any children causes concern or there are repeated incidents of biting, practitioners will remain more vigilant and document such incidents to develop a picture of when incidents are taking place.

The following steps will be taken if a biting incident occurs at Puss 'n' Boots Day Nursery:

- The biting will be interrupted with a firm "No...we don't bite people!"
- Staff will stay calm and will not overreact.
- The bitten child will be comforted.
- Staff will remove the biter from the situation. The biter will be given something to do that is satisfying.
- If appropriate the biter is encouraged to say sorry to the bitten child.
- The wound of the bitten child shall be assessed and cleansed with an antibacterial wipe. **If it is determined that there was a blood exposure further steps need to be taken as outlined below:**
- **"Procedure for Incidents involving Blood Exposure."**
- The parents of both children will be notified of the biting incident. Appropriate forms will be filled out (Behaviour Incident Form).
- Confidentiality of all children involved will be maintained.
- The bitten area should continue to be observed by parents and staff for signs of infection.

### **Procedure for Incidents involving Blood Exposure**

An **exposure** is defined as contact with blood or bodily fluids to which universal precautions apply such as:

- An injury to the skin (e.g.: cut with a sharp object)
- Mucous membranes
- Skin that is chapped, abraded, or otherwise affected so that an effective skin barrier is not present
- A bite or injury which results in blood exposure

A human bite will rarely transmit a bacterial infection if proper first aid is given. Hepatitis B and HIV can potentially be transmitted during a human bite if the skin is broken and a blood exchange occurs.

When a bite or injury occurring in the Nursery setting involves a break in the skin and potential blood exposure, the following steps should be taken:

- Assess the bitten area and clean with anti bacterial wipe, using protective measures such as aprons and gloves.
- Check both children's immunization records and determine if they are up to date on their tetanus (DtaP), and Hepatitis B vaccines.
- If the staff member is not sure if the child is up to date on his immunizations, request details from parents.
- Notify the parents of both children immediately.
- File an incident report as outlined above.
- Notify the setting manager of incident.

Puss 'n' Boots day nursery is aware of the support that needs to be given to parents when their child is biting. We have produced a biting support sheet and will complete with parents a biting plan for their child that will be used to support the child at nursery and at home. This will be reviewed regularly and changed if appropriate.