



Biting Policy

At all times, safeguarding children must be our priority.

Evidence suggests that up to a quarter of all children will bite others at some stage. We understand that this is a difficult situation for parents whether it is your child that has been bitten or your child biting others. This information will give you more information about 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 gnawing on a toy and biting someone
- **Attention** – when children are in situations where they feel they are not receiving enough attention biting is a quick way of becoming the centre of attention
- **Frustration** – children can be frustrated by several things, such as wanting to be independent and do things for themselves and not having the vocabulary to express themselves clearly. This can lead to biting as a way of dealing with this frustration.

What does Creative Stars do about biting? Our staff will monitor and observe the biting child. This may have been an isolated incident, but we will always use observations to see if there is a trigger or pattern.

If the biter frequently bites or partakes in unwanted behaviour, the parents will be informed.

We may encourage your child to take part in activities which help release frustration such as play dough or other physical activities.

If the biter is still biting OR breaks the skin of another child, the parent/carer of the child will be informed and asked to pick their child up immediately.

What can you do about biting? We appreciate that if your child has been bitten or has bitten someone, this can be distressing but please speak to staff about any concerns you may have in a calm manner.

Please remember that staff cannot give you any information about any other children in the nursery and will not disclose who has bitten your child or who your child has bitten.

The key to putting a stop to any challenging behaviour is a partnership approach. If a child's reoccurring behaviour is having a negative impact on your children's experience at nursery, we will work closely with all involved to reduce and eliminate these issues. Working in partnership with parents is essential with both the child who has been bitten and the child who is biting.

If all procedures are exhausted, then we may have no choice but to re-evaluate if the nursery is able to meet this child's needs.



What happens if my child is bitten?

- Your child will be comforted and reassured
- The bite wound will be cleaned thoroughly
- If the wound is bleeding, it will be allowed to bleed in an isolated area and not covered immediately to reduce the risk of further infection
- If the bite occurs to the head, a cold compress will also be used.
- If the bite has broken or bruised the skin, you will then be contacted by telephone so that you are aware that your child has been bitten
- An incident form will be completed for the biter and an accident form completed for the child who has been bitten
- If the bite has broken the child's skin, under the Public Health Protection Agency guidelines you will need to seek medical attention.

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