



## Wesley Pre-School Benfleet

### Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Managing behaviour

Providers are responsible for managing children's behaviour in an appropriate way

## 7.2 Children Biting

### Policy statement

The safety of the children at pre-school is our primary concern. We maintain close supervision of the children at all times but understand that biting can happen quickly and without warning.

Biting is common among young children and is a normal behaviour. We understand that it can be distressing for the child who has been bitten and for the parents/carers of both the victim and the perpetrator.

Children bite for many different reasons and under different circumstances such as exploration, teething, feeling tired, hungry or unwell, obtaining attention, excitement, frustration, imitation, stress or impulse.

Young children may not be able to express their feelings verbally and have a limited understanding of the effects of their behaviour on others. Sometimes biting occurs for no apparent reason. Biting is a learned behaviour that can be un-learned.

This policy addresses the actions we will take if a biting incident occurs.

### Procedures

The following steps will be taken if a biting incident occurs:

- Staff will remain calm and intervene to separate the children.
- The child who has been bitten will be comforted and any injury will be assessed and treated with first aid, as appropriate, and recorded on an accident report.
- Staff will explain to the child who has bitten that biting is not acceptable e.g. “we do not bite people, biting hurts” and talk about the other child's feelings e.g. “sad”. They will be asked to say sorry and their play will be redirected.
- An incident report will be completed.
- The parents/carers of both children will be spoken to confidentially in a sensitive manner at the end of the session and requested to sign the accident/incident report as appropriate.
- Confidentiality of the children involved will be maintained.
- The child who has bitten will be given appropriate activities and support from staff to help monitor and promote the resumption of positive behaviour.

