The Meadows

Cheeky Chimps Childcare

Biting policy:

Biting can be an uncomfortable subject for parents/carers of the biter and the child who has been bitten. This policy will explain how we deal with biting within the nursery. Please do discuss any concerns you may have regarding this issue with a member of staff. If your child tends to bite, we will prefer to know in advance.

Children bite for a variety of reasons. This may be because they are teething, frustrated, exploring using their mouth, asserting their independence and communication. This can include children wanting to gain control of maybe a toy or they may be frustrated. It may also be because they would like to gain attention.

We will work with you and your child to establish when and why they are biting. We will observe the child closely to see if certain conditions or situations trigger the behaviour and then work with the child to try and avoid the incidents occurring. This may involve altering the child's routine, giving them more one to one attention, purchasing additional resources so sharing is not such an issue, or if the child is teething, provide a range of teething resources.

We will ensure that if a child is bitten, they are comforted and given lots of attention. We will provide first aid if required and all biting occurrences will be documented via the incident/accident form on the famly app. Parents/carers of the children involved in the biting incident, will be notified face to face or over the phone. Children who have broken skin due to been bitten at the nursery, the nursery will call the parent/carer and will recommend that the parent seeks medical advice if their child requires a Tetanus vaccine or antibiotics.

Please note: **Due to safeguarding rules, we will not be able to disclose any other children who are involved in the incident.**

Initially we will shadow the child biting, if they go to bite a child/staff etc a staff member will intervene, this may involve removing the child from that particular area. We will explain to the child (in line with their age and stage of development), that biting is unacceptable behaviour, we will also use strategists to support the child's understanding such as a book, '' teeth are not for biting'' etc. For younger children, this may be communicated through tone of voice and facial expressions rather than lots of words. It may be necessary to remove the child from an activity until they are calm enough to return and put them on thinking time with a member of staff. We will also encourage the child to apologise to the child they have bitten and work with them to develop strategies to help them deal with the reasons. We may also place them on an ABC chart to help us understand any triggers for the behaviour. For children who receive additional support in nursery, they may require different strategies of support with biting.

The nursery will work with parent/carers to discuss putting in place a behaviour plan to support their child with biting. This Enables the parent/carer to have a clear understanding on how staff will support their child with their behaviour.

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Please remember that many children go through a biting stage. Please do not be alarmed, it does not last forever!

Gemma Farrar 13.9.2026

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