



Heathfield Early Years Centre

Biting Policy

Principles:

SHANARRI – Safe

UNCRC Article – 36 “I have the right to be kept safe from things that could harm my development.”

SSSC – 3.8 “Keep to my employer’s health and safety policies



Statement

Biting is a common behaviour in children under the age of five and can be concerning for parents, carers and practitioners. Biting happens for various different reasons and can be frightening and painful for the child who has been bitten and also confusing and frightening for the child who has bitten. Children can bite due to frustration of expressing their needs or to communicate anger. At Heathfield EYC, we use promoting positive behaviour strategies to manage biting incidents.

Procedure in the instance of biting:

1. Comfort the child who has been bitten.
2. Check the area for injury and carry out first aid, usually an ice pack and clean with a sterile wipe.
3. A phone call will be made to the child’s parent to advise of the incident and given advice on next steps depending on whether the skin has been broken.
4. Positive behaviour management strategies will be used including removing the children who has bitten from the area or activity. If appropriate, the child will be encouraged to apologise, and restorative conversations will take place. Steps should be taken to understand the trigger & following nurture principles... all behaviour is communication.
5. An incident form will be completed for both children and discussions with both parents/carers will be carried out at collection time.
6. Staff will work with families to identify possible triggers and work together to implement personalised strategies for each child.
7. When there is a regular occurrence of biting, staff will ensure they increase supervision of children who may bite and put appropriate strategies in place. - e.g. 5 point scale