

# ASHENGROUND COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL



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## Biting Policy

### Principal

Biting is a common behaviour that some young children experience, and it occurs more often amongst children under the age of five and in group situations such as preschools, nurseries or other social situations. The need or motivation for one child to bite another is just part of some children's development journey, where they do not yet have the words to sufficiently communicate common emotions such as anger, frustration or need. Children bite for many reasons and we aim to handle any biting incident with respect and sensitivity for all involved. It is our policy to deal with each biting incident on a case by case basis making sure that parents / carers involved are kept up to date with what is happening, but at the same time respecting the confidentiality of the children involved. This ultimately means that we are not able to divulge the identity of any child involved in a biting incident.

**Children may bite for the following reasons:** - Exploration, Teething, Cause of Effect, Attention, Imitation, Independence, Frustration or Stress.

**If a child bites another child** in the setting staff will separate the children and comfort the child who has been bitten and call another member of staff if first aid is required. The staff member will explain age appropriately to the child who has bitten, that biting is unacceptable for example 'we do not bite, biting hurts' and explain how their peers may be feeling for example 'sad' and 'sore'.

**The staff member who dealt with the situation will complete an incident report, parents of both children will be informed. Confidentiality must be followed.**

If a child continually bites, a meeting will be held with the staff team to discuss appropriate and consistent behavioural techniques and the child's parents/carers will be invited into the setting to discuss strategies and explain how the behaviour is dealt with in the setting.

### Potential strategies to support the management of biting incidents

- Increase the supervision of a child who is biting; this does not necessarily need to be one to one.
- Make sure a child who is biting receives significant encouragement when displaying positive behaviour, and avoid excessive attention following an incident.
- Evaluating the routine and judge whether it is meeting the needs of the child. A good quality routine should provide experiences and activities both indoors and outdoors that have no waiting times.
- Group activities should be for the benefit of the children and not as a holding exercise.
- Plan activities which help release frustration such as physical outdoor play and malleable experiences like play dough, gloop etc.
- Provide cosy areas for children to relax in and activities which release tension such as splashing in water, digging in the sand and using sensory equipment.