**Biting Policy and Procedures**

Written by: Alice Mcpherson Date:16.07.2021

Biting can be a normal childhood developmental phase, often observed when children are struggling to express themselves verbally, frustrated, over-excited or if they have pain in their mouth from teething. Sometimes, children try to bite once and get a lot of attention for it and decide to try again.

If a child bites me or other children, I will follow my Behaviour Procedures and –

* Distract the child by moving them on to something else - depending on the age and level of understanding of the child
* Discuss the behaviour with the child when the situation has calmed down
* Implement thinking time as appropriate depending on the age / developmental awareness of the child
* Support the child/ren to return to play
* Plan interventions to support the child who bit to behave in appropriate ways
* Continue to observe the child who bit to note any triggers to their behaviour and aim to keep other children safe through risk assessment and ongoing supervision.

I will ask the parent/s of the child who is biting to come into the provision to discuss the behaviour and to consider how we can work together to stop it happening again as quickly as possible. It is important that parents work with me on this to keep all children in the provision safe.

**Record keeping**

* If a child bites, an **Incident Record** will be completed and shared with parents. Parents will be asked to sign the form and meeting will be called to discuss ways forward.
* If a child is bitten, I will administer paediatric first aid as trained (cold compress – contact parents if skin is punctured to advise medical assistance – provide pain relief with permission) and complete an **Accident and First Aid Record** form to share with parents.
* I will complete a **Physical Intervention Record** form to document any occasions when I have had to physically restrain a child - see **Behaviour Policy** for more information.

**Signature** - in all cases, a parental signature will be requested on the same day (if possible).

**Retention** - records relating to children’s behaviour must be retained for a ‘reasonable period of time’ to comply with Ofsted and EYFS requirements.

Signed: Review date: