

The Frantastic Pre-School

Biting Policy

Biting is a natural developmental stage that many children go through. It is usually a temporary stage that commonly occurs between thirteen and twenty four months of age. The safety of the children at the pre-school is our primary concern. The Pre-school's biting policy addresses the actions the staff will take if a biting incident occurs.

Toddlers bite other toddlers for many different reasons. A child might be teething or overly tired and frustrated. He or she might be experimenting or trying to get the attention of the staff or their peers. Toddlers have limited verbal skills and are impulsive without a lot of self-control. Sometimes biting occurs for no apparent reason. The Frantastic pre-school will encourage the children to "use their words" if they become angry or frustrated. The staff members will maintain a close and constant supervision of the children at all times.

The following procedures will be taken:

- The biting will be interrupted with a firm "No...we don't bite!"
- Staff will stay calm and will not overreact.
- The bitten child will be comforted.
- Staff will remove the biter from the situation. The biter will be redirected into another area.
- The wound of the bitten child shall be assessed and cold compress applied if needed. The parents of both children will be notified of the biting incident. Appropriate form will be filled out (Incident Report).
- Confidentiality of all children involved will be maintained.
- The bitten area should continue to be observed by parents and staff for signs of infection.
- If this is a recurrent situation, the child will be observed or shadowed by staff (e.g. shadowed for 10 minutes at a time without hindering their play or activities) and the observations will be monitored to see why the biting is reoccurring.
- The child will be given appropriate activities (sensory activities) to help cope with the biting.
- If we have a child who is biting on a regular basis we shall put a behaviour management program into place with the full involvement of the parents/carer.
- If the situation is deemed serious enough and other children are at risk the child may be sent home.

This policy was adopted by: Frantastic Pre-School	Date: 31st August 2020
To be reviewed: 30th August 2021	Signed: F Taylor

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2012): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Staff Qualifications, training, support and skills [3.18-3.19, 3.22]*