

**MOSS SIDE PLAYGROUP
BITING POLICY
JANUARY 2017
VERSION 1.0**

Biting Policy

Biting is very upsetting for the biter, the victim and the families of both children.

THE ROLE OF STAFF IN POSITIVE HANDLING

- Staff will do their best to stop the biting. If the member of staff nearest to the child is not trained they will call for help, using the phrase 'staff help'. If the biter is locked on to the victim staff will do their best to ensure that tearing does not occur. When the trained member of staff arrives they will unlock the bite using an accepted method.
- Following the incident the child who has been bitten will receive immediate comfort and first aid. A cold compress will be applied and the site will be cleaned with an antiseptic wipe.
- The child who bit will be supervised carefully. The management of their behaviour will depend on their age, previous biting episodes, and their management plan (if one is in place)
- The incident will be recorded in the Accident Book. The details to be recorded will be the detail of what occurred and the treatment given. The parent of the injured child will sign the Accident Book.
- The parents of both children will be informed about the incident. The name of the other child will not be given. Parents will be informed in a confidential setting, and not in front of other parents or their own child.
- If the victim's skin has been broken the parent should be advised to consult their G.P.

APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN WHO BITE

Each incident will take into account the age and developmental level of the child. Biting is a very natural behaviour for young children. Children who are teething may bite to relieve the pressure in their gums. They are likely to be frightened by the distress of the other child and will need a similar level of comfort.

Slightly older children may bite to protect their territory, their toys or because they may be jealous of attention given to another child. They may also be imitating the behaviour of another child. A firm 'no biting' and a removal from the situation with little or no attention for a few minutes will usually be all that is required in order to ensure that the child does not benefit from biting.

Where children are over three, staff will be asked to document the events leading to the biting. If the child bites more than once, staff will provide a higher level of supervision,

attempting to help the child to behave differently, whilst ensuring that other children are kept safe.

ANNUAL REVIEW

The manager and chair of the committee will review this policy statement annually and update, modify or amend it as it considers necessary to ensure the policy meets the needs of Moss Side Playgroup.

SignedDate (Chair of Committee)

SignedDate (Manager)

COMPILED APPROVED REVIEWED REVISED	VERSION	DATE	EDITOR
Compiled	1.0	January 2017	Kersh Webster/EYFS Staff
Approved			