



## **Biting**

At Alyth Kindergarten, we follow a positive behaviour policy to always promote positive behaviour. However, we understand that children may use certain behaviours such as biting as part of their development. Biting is a common behaviour that some young children go through and can be triggered when they do not have the words to communicate their anger, frustration or need.

### **Our procedures**

The kindergarten uses the following strategies to help prevent biting: sensory activities and adequate resources and staff who recognise when children need more stimulation or quiet times. However, in the event of a child being bitten we use the following procedures. The most relevant staff member(s) will:

- Comfort any child who has been bitten and check for any visual injury. Complete an accident form and inform the parents via telephone if deemed appropriate, or alternatively at collection time, in either instance the parent will be asked to sign the accident form. Continue to observe the bitten area for signs of infection.
- For confidentiality purposes and possible conflict, we do not disclose the name of the child who has caused the bite to the parents.
- Tell the child who has caused the bite in terms that they understand that biting is unkind and show the child that it makes staff and the child who has been bitten sad. If appropriate, get the child who has been bitten to tell the biter that they do not like being bitten and that it makes them sad.
- The child will be asked to say sorry if developmentally appropriate or helped to develop their empathy skills by giving the child who has been bitten a hug or a favourite book or comforter.
- If a child continues to bite, carry out observations to try to distinguish a cause, e.g. tiredness, frustration or a sensory need.
- If this behaviour continues despite all strategies to prevent this being put into place then we will look at other ways to distinguish a trigger and with parental permission may ask for support from our Area SENCO or other outside specialists where necessary.

Policy reviewed January 2022

review date January 2023