

# Biting Policy

## **Rational:**

At Bright Babes the well-being of all children enrolled is paramount. We also recognise that biting can be a normal part of a young child's development. Consistency in behaviour guidance is essential for reducing the instances of this particular behaviour. We aim to respond effectively to give our parents confidence that we are working to minimise the situation of this behaviour as quickly as possible.

## **Detail:**

- Parents will be informed if their child has bitten or was bitten.
- Teachers will NOT give out the name of any other child involved
- When a child bites our behaviour guidance policy is followed. Teacher's attention is mainly focused on the child who has been bitten, in caring for them and ensuring they feel better.
- An explanation is given to the child who has bitten that such behaviour is not acceptable. They are encouraged to use words and/or gentle hands to communicate their feelings.
- When a child is constantly biting, a specific behaviour guidance plan will be written by the teacher and discussed with the child's parents. Teachers will try to recognise and prevent occurrences of biting, to reduce harm to others and help children learn more positive strategies for social engagement.
- All teachers, both permanent and casual, will be made aware of behaviour guidance procedures for biting.
- Written information will be made available to parents who are concerned.
- Parents will be reassured that biting is normal behaviour in young children and everything is being done to reduce the instances of biting within the centre.
- Teachers will give informal feedback to any concerned parent regarding the process of specific behaviour guidance strategies in place. A specific time should be made for parents wishing to discuss issues with teachers in more depth.
- Children who bite will not be excluded from our programme.
- If the specific behaviour guidance plan fails to reduce the instances of biting, outside help will be sought from specialist education services.

## **Procedures:**

1. Attend to the victim, apply first aid
2. Remove the "biter" from the situation, if they were biting to get a toy, remove it and explain in respectful voice why you are doing so, redirect to another area or ask another staff member if they go with the child to redirect them.
3. Complete an incident form; both parents informed at pick up; NO names given.
4. Record incident in the staff communication diary, include (if known) the trigger or motivator, inform team leader or senior teacher.

5. Explain to the biter that biting is unacceptable, biting hurts, show them that the other child is sad/hurt, build empathy.
6. Encourage them to use words, give them alternatives to bite e.g. teething ring
7. If relevant look at the physical environment and alter as needed so that behaviour can be monitored
8. Work with your team, shadow the child and provide positive role modelling, trying to stop the behaviour before it occurs.

**Alignment with other Policies:**

Positive Guidance Policy

Parent Involvement, Information and Communication Policy

**Policy Review Schedule**

Review every three years or when there is a significant change in the area of the policy topic.

Introduction Date:	April 2018			
Next review date:	April 2021			
Comment:	Updated			
Consultation Undertaken:	Staff Management Parents and families.			