

Biting Policy and Procedure

Last Review: 20/08/2025

Next Review: 20/08/2026

1.0 Policy Statement

Biting can occur in early years settings, particularly when children are developing language, coping with big emotions, teething, or adjusting to change. Our approach is calm, supportive and preventative. We prioritise everyone's safety, help children learn gentler ways to communicate, and work closely with parents. All incidents are managed consistently and recorded on **Family**, with confidentiality maintained for all children involved.

2.0 Our Legal Obligations

- **EYFS Statutory Framework (2025):** safeguarding and welfare requirements on behaviour management; keeping written records of accidents/injuries; informing parents the same day or as soon as reasonably practicable; and recording any necessary physical intervention.
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023):** early help, multi-agency working and information-sharing principles.
- **Local Safeguarding Partnership procedures:** consultation/thresholds where welfare concerns arise.
- **Health & Safety / First Aid & Infection Control:** duty of care and safe treatment of wounds.
- **UK GDPR & Data Protection Act 2018:** secure, proportionate recording and restricted access to incident data.
- **Equality Act 2010:** inclusive practice and reasonable adjustments for children with additional needs.

3.0 Procedures

Immediate response. Staff intervene swiftly and calmly to separate and reassure the children. The bitten child receives first aid; the other child is supported to regulate with an adult. We use simple, neutral language (e.g. "biting hurts; we use gentle mouths") and model empathy without shaming or forcing apologies.

First aid and infection control. If the skin is broken, we wash the wound under running water, apply a clean dressing, and advise parents about medical review, as human bites can become infected. We follow our First Aid and Infection Control procedures.

Recording and informing. An accident/incident entry is completed on Famly for the bitten child (injury) and for the child who bit (behaviour incident). Parents of both children are informed the same day. We do not share the other child's identity or personal details.

Support and prevention. We analyse triggers (time, place, activity, crowding, tiredness, teething, communication frustration) and adapt the environment and routines. Strategies can include closer adult presence at high-risk moments ("shadowing"), offering teething resources, smoothing transitions, and adding communication/sensory supports. We use positive behaviour support and co-regulation; punitive measures such as "time-out" are not used. If brief physical intervention is required to prevent immediate harm, it is proportionate, recorded, and parents are informed the same day.

Working with parents. We explain what happened factually and outline a support plan if required. For repeated incidents, the SENCO and key person agree a short, targeted plan with parents (communication scaffolds, visuals, small-group times, sensory regulation). Where patterns persist or wider concerns arise, we may seek advice from the Health Visitor/Early Years team with parental consent or follow safeguarding procedures if necessary.

Monitoring and review. Senior staff/DSL review patterns on Famly to check the effectiveness of strategies and ensure records meet EYFS requirements. Learning feeds into staff training and room risk assessments.