

Biting Policy

Grafton Childcare is responsible for managing children's behaviour in an appropriate way and we will not use corporal punishment or threaten to use corporal punishment on any child or threaten any punishment which could adversely affect a child's well-being. We are aware that we must take all reasonable steps to ensure that corporal punishment is not given by any person who cares for or is in regular contact with a child, or by any person living or working on the premises.

A person will not be taken to have used corporal punishment (and therefore will not have committed an offence), where physical intervention was taken for the purposes of averting immediate danger of personal injury to any person (including the child) or to manage a child's behaviour if absolutely necessary. Physical intervention is where practitioners use reasonable force to prevent children from injuring themselves or others or damaging property. Grafton Childcare will keep a record of any occasion where physical intervention is used, and parents and/or carers will be informed as soon as reasonably practicable.

This policy supports the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2016, **Accident or Injury 3.50 & 3.51, Managing Behaviour 3.52 & 3.53** and should be considered in line with our policy on Managing Behaviour and other policies where we may have identified and determined where it is helpful to make some written notes in relation to specific issues, to inform staff practice, and to demonstrate how we are managing risks if asked by parents and or carers, other early years workers or inspectors for example via Grafton Childcare's Staff Handbook.

Biting can be an uncomfortable subject for parents of both the biter and the child who is bitten. We hope that this policy will explain how we deal with biting at Grafton Childcare. Please do discuss any concerns you may have regarding this issue with us. If your child is known to bite we would prefer to know in advance. Children bite for a variety of reasons. This may be because they are teething, frustrated, exploring using their mouth, asserting their independence and wanting to gain control, maybe of a toy or they could be stressed. It may also be because they want to gain attention.

We will work with you and your child to establish when and why they are biting. We will observe the child closely to see if certain conditions or situations trigger the behaviour and then work with them to try and avoid the incidents occurring. This may involve altering the child's routine, giving them more one to one attention, purchasing additional resources so sharing is not such a major issue or if it is because a child is teething providing suitable teething resources.

We will ensure that if a child is bitten that they are comforted and given lots of attention. We will ensure that any first aid is applied correctly if required and the incident will be recorded.

Biting Policy

If your child bites then we will remove them from the situation and explain to them, according to their age and understanding that biting is unacceptable behaviour. For younger child this may be by our tone of voice and facial expressions rather than lots of words.

It may be necessary for us to exclude the child from an activity until they are calm enough to return. We may encourage the child to apologise to the child they have bitten and work with them to develop strategies to help them deal with the reasons where developmentally appropriate.

Please ask to view a copy of our 'A Parent's Guide to Biting' one of our information factsheets which can help to explain in more detail the reasons behind why some children bite and the best ways to deal with it.