

Mogghill Nursery School

Biting policy and procedure

Biting is a part of a normal developmental stage for young children who are teething and are still developing their language skills. It is usually a temporary condition which is most common between 13 and 24 months. For many toddlers, the biting stage is just a passing problem. Toddlers try it out as a way to get what they want from another toddler. They are in the process of learning what is socially acceptable and what is not. For other children, biting is a persistent and chronic problem. They may bite for a variety of reasons; teething, frustration, boredom, inadequate language skills, stress or change in the environment, feeling threatened or to feel a sense of power.

Due to the danger this behaviour represents to other children, repeated biting at Mogghill Nursery cannot be tolerated and requires positive intervention by both staff and the parents.

The staff will maintain a close and constant supervision of the children at all times but due to the speed and randomness with which biting incidents often occur, it is not always possible to prevent these from happening. Our biting policy addresses the actions the staff will take if a biting incident occurs.

The following steps will be taken if a biting incident occurs at Mogghill Nursery:

- The biting will be interrupted with a firm "No.....we don't bite people"
- Staff will stay calm and will not overreact
- The bitten child will be comforted
- Staff will remove the biter from the situation and they will be spoken to in a manner he or she can understand and will be redirected to other play.
- The wound of the bitten child shall be assessed and cleansed with soap and water.
- If the bite pierces the skin, there may be a risk of contamination from bacteria or viruses in the mouth. We at Mogghill Nursery would advise the parent to seek medical advice from their GP, the immediate cleaning of the wound will help in preventing infection.
- The parents of both children will be notified of the biting incident and appropriate forms will be filled out.
- Confidentiality of all children involved will be maintained
- The bitten area should continue to be observed by parents and staff for signs of infection.

At Mogghill Nursery we will monitor each biting incident to see if a pattern can be identified, in an effort to prevent further biting behaviour. We will work with each biting child on resolving conflict or frustration in an appropriate manner. If a child bites more than once, a member of staff will shadow them for as long as is felt appropriate both to protect potential victims and to try to understand why the biting is happening.