



# Biting Procedure

## Rationale

To ensure that children who bite are closely monitored and that specialised help is obtained if there is an on-going pattern of biting that is occurring.

Biting, like hitting, grabbing and pushing are often the result of a child's inability to adequately express themselves verbally. While we try our best to prevent biting, it is a frequent problem for groups of children in early childhood settings. Naturally, this method of initiating play or expressing oneself can be quite upsetting for parents and can cause frustration and anger.

## Guidelines

The child who bites is not necessarily malicious. Biting is often an experimental way to initiate play, express frustration or adjustment, express intimidation and even teething can cause a child to bite. It is important for parents to note that physical punishment techniques only teach more aggressive behaviour to children. Close monitoring and intervention is a more appropriate model.

Children who bite at the Centre are closely monitored and often separated from close proximity to other children. The child who has been injured will be comforted and attended to. As these incidents occur as part of the developmental process, the teachers will do their best to assist the social learning process by supplying language, re-directing behaviour and working with the parents of the child concerned. If Children, who are over three years old, are persistent biters and cannot be successfully redirected, then staff will work with parents to seek guidance and support from outside agencies.

We are focused on minimising biting among our children and the staff will keep in close contact with the families involved. Children who regularly bite will be placed on a programme to monitor their behaviour and this will be discussed with parents along with strategies for improvement.

To ensure the safety of all children and teachers at the centre, if there is no visible improvement, the parents of the biter may be asked to keep their child away from the centre for a stand down period of up to three weeks. The parents will be given 48 hours notification of the enforcement of the stand down period. In extreme cases the child's enrolment may be terminated.