**Equality of opportunity**

**1.13b Biting**

Policy statement

Biting can be fairly common among children and can be a concern for both parents and staff. Biting can often be painful and frightening for the child who has been bitten. It can also be frightening for the child who bites, because it upsets the child and can make adults cross. Biting happens for different reasons with different children and under different circumstances. Our setting aims to understand the reasons behind such behaviour and to provide strategies which enable children to express their emotions in more appropriate ways.

**Procedures**

* We recognise that children bite for a variety of reasons. It may be to gain attention, a form of imitation, a way of exerting independence or frustration or a result of stress.
* We make use of the who, what, when where system in order to discover the root of the problem. We ask:-

1. Who was involved?
2. What happened before or after?
3. How was the situation handled?
4. When did the biting happen?
5. Where did it happen?

* Once a child has bitten we remove them from the situation and say something like “biting is not okay – it hurts”? The child maybe seated on a chair accompanied by an adult to enable them to calm down.
* The child is then redirected to other play
* The child who has been bitten is separated from the child who has bitten, is comforted in a way appropriate to the child and any necessary first aid treatment given.
* An incident report is completed for both children and the parents informed.
* In circumstances where biting continues staff discuss the issue together with parents in order to come up with a united strategy
* Parents are informed of the procedures to be employed in dealing with a biting situation.
* If deemed necessary the biter will be shadowed to protect other children by their key person or key person partner
* Biters are praised as are all children for positive behaviour and are given alternative strategies for venting their feelings.
* Preventative measures will be taken wherever relevant.
* In circumstances where a parent asks for a child who bites to be removed from the setting a meeting will be arranged with the manager to discuss the issue further.

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| This policy was adopted at a meeting of | Little Fishes | name of setting |
| Held on | 9 January 2022 | (date) |
| Date to be reviewed | Spring 2024 | (date) |
| Signed on behalf of the management committee |  | |
| Name of signatory | Sue Wharton | |
| Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner) | Operations Manager | |