

**PARENT/CARER POLICY**  
**BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT / DISCIPLINE STRATEGY**

The aim of the behaviour management policy is to promote acceptable behaviour and develop a respect for others. It is most important that children are positively encouraged to produce good behaviour and that they are aware of what is expected of them. Children need to understand the effect of their behaviour on others. It is beneficial to offer praise and positive reinforcement and to allow ample time to encourage children to be well-behaved, consistently rewarding good behaviour. Our aim is to provide positive role models through trained and experienced staff that can coach and agree 'rules' of the nursery. Working in partnership is essential to ensure that all children are praised and positive behaviour is recognised effectively.

On occasions it is necessary to discipline children. When doing so all nursery staff observe the following method:

- We must be consistent and approach the discipline of children in the same fashion this includes at home and nursery.
- We feel it is inappropriate to shout as a form of discipline and at nursery we only use shouting as a form of attracting attention so as to avoid danger.
- It is important to try to explain and discuss with the child what they are doing wrong and the consequences to ensure that they fully understand and do not repeat the negative behaviour.
- At nursery if a child displays negative behaviour we sit the child away from the group or exclude them from an activity keeping them in the same room for a couple of minutes. This enables them to observe others playing positively within the group and also gives them time to think about what they have done wrong. We then discuss their behaviour and encourage them to understand what they have done wrong before returning to activities. We will only remove a child from their base room if they continue to display negative behaviour towards the other children during their 'time out'.
- We encourage children to apologise to the child/children/staff as appropriate although this is not demanded.
- When dealing with negative behaviour it is essential that each incident is treated separately and not as part of a series. It is also important to stay calm and discuss the child's behaviour openly in a quiet manner.
- In the instance where a child's actions are harmful to other children e.g. biting, scratching, bullying we must ask that parents fully co-operate with nursery staff and be available to be consulted to ensure that we are addressing the problem consistently. This joint approach is vital for the smooth running of the nursery and the welfare of all children attending the nursery.

**Biting**

At the nursery we consider biting to be strictly unacceptable behaviour. It causes much upset to the child who has been bitten and also the child's parents who get distressed and concerned. For this reason, it is essential to ensure that we work together to stop the problem and to prevent the situation recurring.

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As babies & toddlers experiment constantly, it can often be the case that they may bite. This can be caused by general inquisitiveness, teething creating pain in their gums, enjoyment of the reaction to the bite or to get what they want. Whatever the reason for the biting it is most important that it is not ignored.

For older children where biting is a form of negative behaviour we must ensure that they understand what they have done wrong and closely liaise to ensure that positive behaviour is reinforced and praised, whilst negative behaviour is strongly discouraged.

Please be aware of our behaviour management strategy which we follow throughout the nursery. If you have any queries or would like guidance please do not hesitate in talking to a senior member of staff. As stated above we cannot stress the importance enough that we work in partnership with parents and liaise frequently if this situation occurs.

**Biting Procedure**

If a child bites at nursery the parents are always informed upon his/her collection from nursery. This will be done in a kind and caring manner in order to raise awareness and to ensure that we can work together so that parents are able to reinforce the idea that negative behaviour is unacceptable.

If a child continues to bite on more than one occasion, we will continue to liaise closely with parents offering guidance and support although parents must be aware that this situation can not continue due to the distress caused to other children within the nursery. Parents must understand and be aware that we care for groups of children and the overall welfare and happiness of the children can be disrupted greatly by having this situation continue. It is not acceptable.

If necessary the nursery will provide an extra member of staff, short term who will act on a one-to-one basis to ensure that the child does not continue to bite. They will very actively attempt to cure the situation by offering praise for good behaviour and speaking especially sternly to the child at each attempt to bite. If the child is persistent in trying to bite other children it is probable that a discussion or meeting between parents and staff is appropriate.

If the situation does not improve and after all efforts, the child continues to bite, the nursery may feel that there is no alternative but to ask that the child is removed from nursery.

We would like to emphasise that short-term biting problems are not uncommon in babies and toddlers and that the situation can usually be quickly remedied by immediate and consistent action. It is very rare, given the above action, that we are unable to finally overcome this sensitive situation.