**5.3 Biting Policy**

**Policy**

At Woolston preschool we recognise that biting is a normal developmental stage that many children go through. We understand that young children may bite for a number of reasons including experimenting with their mouths, frustration or attempting to gain attention and that it will not always be clear why they are biting. Biting can be serious and result in a child being seriously hurt.

As such we have appropriate procedures in place to deal with this behaviour.

**Procedures**

* Staff will intervene to stop the child biting or attempting to bite another child or member of staff.
* Staff explain to the child that biting can hurt and that they should not bite another person. They will attempt to help the child to learn empathy.
* Staff use positive language about appropriate biting such as explaining that we use our teeth to bite food not our friends.
* When a bite has left a mark on the skin we will record this in the accident book. The parents of both the child who bites and the bitten child will be informed.
* If the biting becomes a regular occurrence we will complete ABCC forms to try and find a common pattern and then put preventative measures in place.
* If the biting appears to be a pattern of behaviour the child will be monitored by a member of staff in an effort to prevent further biting incidents and to help to establish what may trigger the biting. In some cases it may be appropriate to liaise with the area Senco regarding the provision of extra funding to provide the necessary staff.
* When observations do establish triggers for biting we will respond appropriately in an attempt to avoid these triggers. This may involve altering the child’s routine or providing extra staffing support on an ongoing basis.
* The bitten child will be comforted and first aid applied if appropriate. The bitten area will continue to be observed by staff throughout the session for signs of infection. Parents will be advised to continue to observe the area after the session and seek medical advice if appropriate. In the event that the biting causes the skin to break the child’s parents will be called to collect the child and will be advised to seek medical assistance.
* We have a **Good Behaviour Policy** in place setting out the ways in which we encourage positive behaviour at all times and attempt to avoid biting incidents.
* Infrequently biting behaviour may be indicative of more serious problems for the child in which case we have in place both a **Special Educational Needs Policy** and a **Child Protection Policy**.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Woolston Community Pre-School held on 3 October 2016

Reviewed December 2023

**Role on committee: Nominated person**

Signed by

Date

Name of Signatory:

**Woolston Preschool manager**

Name Gemma Woodward

Date

Signature