Management of Child who Bites Policy

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals nurseries recognise that small children for a variety of reasons and from time to time will or attempt to bite other children. For very young children this can occur for varying reasons such as frustration to communicate, teething and illness. Though the staff will endeavour to prevent any incidents, due to the spontaneity and speed this is not always possible.

The nurseries will support the child by:

- The biter will be immediately removed from the group with a firm NO from the practitioner. The bitten child is consoled and first aid applied. The biter will be spoken to on a level that he/she can understand, and then redirected to an activity. The practitioners in the room will support both children during the session.

- Staff will provide First Aid to the wound and an Incident Form will be completed. Both sets of parent/carers will be notified on the incident.

- Confidentiality of all children involved will be maintained.

- A bitten area should continue to be assessed by the parent/carer for signs of infection.

- Daily discussions and weekly meeting with parent/carers will take place to ensure that we are working together and that we have all information that may be relevant to the problem.

- One member of staff follows and observes the child, keeping a daily Home/Nursery diary to monitor incidents and increase the nursery’s understanding of when, where and why this particular behaviour is taking place. Looking at possible causes i.e. tiredness, hunger, illness, lack of verbal ability, unsettling life changes, stress, lack of holiday, frustration, age!

- Room meetings will take place with all relevant staff to discuss strategies that can be used to prevent the problem and how to move forward. A common strategy will be decided upon for a consistent staff and parent/carer approach. Evaluation of how strategies are working will take place daily.

- Practitioners will assess the learning environment to ensure it is challenging, stimulating and developmentally appropriate for the child / children.

- Praising the child for good behaviour. Reminding the child of the “No biting rule” and ‘Golden Rules’ and if appropriate the use of a reward system.

- A high level of supervision will take place to ensure the safety of other children and try to pre-empt incidents.
- If the problem continues an extra member of staff, over and above the recommended ratios will be brought in for a short while to give the child extra support.

- The Local Inclusion Team will be contacted for advice and support.

- A Play Plan or Individual Education Plan will be put into action.

- A visual timetable will be introduced. Simple language used for instructions and Signing could also be used.

- In the event of one other child being the subject of the biting incidents on numerous occasions moving the biting child to an alternative room may be necessary.

- The nurseries are prevented at allowing any exclusion unless all reasonable support and adjustments have been met. The nursery will liaise with the Local Education Authority, Ofsted and the Parent/Carers for the most appropriate outcome.