



## **Ladybirds Preschool Biting Policy & Procedure** **(Revised 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024)**

*Working in conjunction with the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (EYFS).*

Quality and Consistency.

A Secure Foundation.

Partnership Working.

Equality of Opportunity.

**Unique Child   Positive Partnerships   Enabling Environment   Learning and Developing**

### Introduction

We believe at Ladybirds Preschool that children and adults flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are understood, supported and met and where there are clear, fair and developmentally appropriate expectations for their behaviour in an ordered environment.

We believe that everyone thrives best when they know what is expected of them, where children are free to develop their play and learning without fear of being hurt or hindered by anyone else.

We aim to work towards an environment in which children can develop self-discipline and self-esteem in an atmosphere of mutual respect and encouragement.

At Ladybirds Preschool we follow our positive behaviour policy to always promote positive behaviour.

Biting is a common behaviour that some young children go through. This is part of some children's development and can be triggered when they do not yet have the words to communicate their anger, frustration, affection or need; this is most common between thirteen and twenty-four months of age and is part of the natural exploration of a child of this age.

Biting can often be painful and frightening for both children involved. We assure parents and carers that when they leave their child with us, we do everything we can to ensure that their child is kept safe and supervised; however, there are times when we may not be in arms reach to prevent biting from happening as it is usually unpredictable.

Strategies to prevent biting include sensory activities, biting rings, adequate resources and a stimulating exciting environment. However, in the event of a child being bitten the following procedure will be followed

### Procedures

The child who has been bitten will be comforted and checked for any visual injury. First aid will be administered where necessary. An accident form will be completed and the parents will be informed via telephone. The bitten area will continue to be observed for signs of infection.

The child who has caused the bite will be told in terms that they understand that biting (the behaviour and not the child) is unkind and be shown that it makes staff and the child who has been bitten sad. We make it clear that it is the biting behaviour that we disapprove of - not the child and to reinforce this, positive behaviour will be encouraged and praised the child will be asked to say sorry if developmentally appropriate or show they are sorry, e.g. through hugging. If appropriate an incident form will be completed and shared with the parents at the end of the child's session.

In the event of a bite breaking the skin and to reduce the risk of infection from bacteria, prompt treatment may be needed for both the 'biter' and the 'bitten'.

If a child or member of staff sustains a bite wound where the skin has been severely broken they may require urgent medical attention after initial first aid has been carried out

Staff will:

- maintain a close and constant supervision of the children at all times.
- encourage the children to use words, actions or symbols if they become angry or frustrated.
- be consistent in providing an appropriate learning environment and interesting daily activities, to help reduce the number of biting incidents that can occur.

#### After the Incident:

- A record will be made of:
  - Who was involved
  - What happened before and after the event
  - When and where
  - How the situation was handled
- The incident will be recorded in the accident book
- The EYFS Behaviour Management Officer will be informed

#### Further Support:

- If biting becomes more persistent (more than three times in a term), strategies are agreed between staff and parents on ways forward to prevent further incidences of biting. The Committee Chair will also be informed of these persistent biting incidents.

Where a child may repeatedly bite and/or if they have a particular special educational need or disability that lends itself to increased biting, e.g. in some cases of autism where a child doesn't have the communication skills, the setting will carry out a risk assessment and may recommend immunisation with hepatitis B vaccine for all staff and children.

Further guidance

- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (DfE 2014)

### Other Related Policies & Procedures

*The following policies provide additional information regarding the safeguarding and welfare of the children in our care:*

- *Anti-Bullying*
- *Children's Records Policy*
- *Children's Rights & Entitlement Policy*
- *Complaints*
- *Confidentiality & Client Access Policy*
- *Daily Running Policy*
- *Diversity & Equality Policy*
- *Employment & Staffing Policy*
- *Fire Safety & Emergency Evacuation Policy*
- *First Aid Policy*
- *Information Sharing Policy*
- *Key Person & Settling Policy*
- *Looked After Children Policy*
- *Mobile, Camera & Social Media Policy*
- *Outdoor Play Policy*
- *Outings & Visits Policy*
- *Parent Involvement Policy*
- *Photography & Video Policy*
- *Physical Contact & Handling Policy*
- *Prevent & British Values Policy*
- *Promoting Positive Behaviour*
- *Provider Records Policy*
- *Recording & Reporting of Accidents & Incidents Policy*
- *Risk Assessment Policy*
- *Safeguarding Policy*

- *Special Education Needs & Inclusion Policy*
- *Staff Alcohol & Drugs Policy*
- *Staff Behaviour Policy*
- *Staffing & Volunteers Policy*
- *Student Placement Policy*
- *Suitable Persons Policy*
- *Transfer of Records Policy*
- *Uncollected or Lost Children Policy*
- *Usage, Storage & Retention Policy*
- *Working in Partnership Policy*

*This policy will be monitored and evaluated at committee meetings. It will be reviewed bi-annually and unless new legislation or an incident occurs which requires an immediate review of this policy*

**November 2024**

**Review Date: November 2026**

**This Notice was adopted by the committee on November 2024**

**Signed:** *Jean De Gatzis* \_\_\_\_\_

**Reviewed Date:**

**Signature:**

**Amendments:**