



Biting Policy

Biting is a common behaviour that some young children go through. It is part of some children's development stage and is used as a response where they do not yet have the words to communicate their anxiety, anger, frustration or need. To manage incidents of biting at Playden, we follow our positive behaviour policy to always promote positive behaviour.

Strategies to prevent biting include sensory activities that are appropriate to the child, such as biting rings or fidget toys, as well as providing adequate resources and a stimulating exciting environment to meet individual needs. However, in the event of a child being bitten the following procedure will be followed:

- 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 parents will be informed via telephone as soon as possible. The bitten area will continue to be monitored 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 to have it explained and shown that biting makes the person who has been bitten feel sad. The child will be asked to say sorry if developmentally appropriate or to show/acknowledge that they are sorry, e.g. through hugging.
- An incident form will be completed and shared with the parents of both children involved at the end of the session.
- For confidentiality purposes the name of the child who was bitten will not be disclosed to the parents/carers of the child who did the biting. Likewise, the name of the child who did the biting will not be disclosed to the parents/carers of the child who was bitten.



If a child continues to bite, observations will be carried out to try to distinguish a cause, e.g. tiredness, anxiety or frustration. Meetings will be held with the child's parents/carers to develop strategies to prevent the biting behaviour. The parents/carers will be reassured that biting is part of a child's development and not made to feel that it is their fault.

In the event of a bite breaking the skin, there is the possible risk of infection from bacteria such as *Staphylococcus aureus* and tetanus-causing bacteria and viruses such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV. To reduce the risk of infection, prompt treatment will be needed for both the 'biter' and the 'bitten'. In the first instance, the wound will be washed with plain water. Further treatment may include antibiotics, tetanus immunisations and/or immunoglobulin, hepatitis B vaccination and/or immunoglobulin and HIV prophylaxis treatment.

If a child or member of staff sustains a human bite wound where the skin has been broken, they will require urgent medical attention in A&E following the receipt of first aid. This allows the bite to be assessed to identify its severity, provide antibiotics and to assess the risk of exposure to any blood borne virus' and assess if treatment is needed.

First aid before attending A&E

- Encourage the wound to bleed (unless bleeding freely) with gentle pressure
- Never suck the wound
- Irrigate with warm running water and liquid soap
- Remove any foreign body (including teeth)
- Cover the wound with a waterproof dressing

On the rare occasion that the biter has blood in their mouth, a member of staff will model and encourage the child to swill their mouth several times with tap water and spit it out. The child should not swallow the water.



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 may recommend immunisation with hepatitis B vaccine for all staff and children.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	Playden
Held in:	April 2026
To be reviewed in:	April 2027
Signed on behalf of the setting:	
Name of Signatory:	
Role of Signatory:	Manager Deputy Manager