

**Strawberry Hill Preschool
And Wrap Around Care
Biting Policy**

Wrap Around Care =
St James Breakfast and After School Club
St Richard Reynolds Breakfast and After School Club
Twickenham Prep Wrap Club

Biting is a common behaviour that can be triggered when children do not yet have the words to communicate their anger, frustration or need.

Our procedures

Strawberry Hill Preschool and Wrap Around Care uses the following strategies to prevent biting: sensory activities, biting rings, adequate resources and staff who recognise when children need more stimulation or quiet times. In the event of a child being bitten we use the following procedures.

- Comfort any child who has been bitten and check for any visual injury. Administer first aid where necessary. Complete and accident form and inform parents by telephone if deemed appropriate. Continue to observe the bitten area for signs of infection. For confidentiality purposes and possible conflict we do not disclose the name of the child who has caused the bite to the parents.
- Tell the child who has caused the bite, in terms they understand, that biting (the behaviour and not the child) is unkind and show the child that it makes the child who is bitten, sad. The child will be helped to develop their empathy skills by giving the child who has been bitten a favourite book or a comforter.
- Staff will complete an incident form to share with the parents at the end of the session.
- In Strawberry Hill Preschool if a child continues to bite, staff will carry out observations to try and establish the antecedents of the behaviour
- Arrange a meeting with the child's parents to develop strategies to prevent the biting behaviour. Parents will be reassured that it is part of a child's development and not made to feel they are at fault.
- At the Wrap Around Care if a child bites, we would talk to the child and explain that it is not a way resolve conflict or problems and make them apologise to the injured party. Both sets of parents would be informed. If biting was to continue The Manager of the setting would speak to the parents and the child's teacher. If the biting continued, the Manager would liaise with the parents and suggest that our setting was not the right place for the child.

If a child or staff member receives a bite wound where the skin has been broken, then arrange for medical attention after initial first aid has been carried out.

If the child has been assessed as having a special need that leads to increased and continual biting, then immunisation with hepatitis B may be recommended for all staff and children.

Reviewed March 2022

