Ryedene Primary School and Nursery

EYFS Biting Management Procedure

At Ryedene Primary School and Nursery, we aim to provide a happy, secure, friendly and stimulating environment where children learn and have fun together, supported by an enthusiastic and professional team.

Aims of the Policy

At The Ryedene Primary School and Nursery, we aim to ensure that all children in our care learn and develop and are kept healthy and safe. Adults in school promote positive behaviour and relationships through modelling this using play situations and learning opportunities.

Biting is a natural developmental stage that many children go through. It is usually a temporary action that is part of natural exploration for young children.

We recognise how upset parents/carers may be when they learn their child has been bitten and endeavour to ensure this doesn't happen. However, we do recognise that even with the best strategies in place and all efforts made to prevent this happening, an incident could still occur.

The safety of all children at Ryedene Primary School and Nursery is our primary concern. The EYFS biting policy addresses the actions the staff will take if a biting incident occurs and to prevent it reoccurring.

If a child has been bitten

- In the event of a child being bitten, the child with the injury will be immediately comforted and attention to the affected area will be carried out by a trained Pediatric First Aid member of staff. If the skin has been perforated, the area will be cleaned with a sterile wipe and the parents/carers informed immediately, as medical advice may need to be sought. The bitten area should continue to be observed by parents and staff for signs of infection.
- If the child has a mark but no broken skin or no visible mark, the above procedure will still be followed with the child being assessed by a first aider and parents contacted either by telephone call or face to face.
- The parents of the child who has bitten will also be informed. The child will receive a consequence appropriate to their level of development and understanding.

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 on Medical Tracker
- The headteacher will be informed
- Both sets of parents will be informed.

What if a child bites others regularly?

Very occasionally, biting may become a regular occurrence for a child. There are often links between children with communication needs and biting. In all incidences the school will explore the child's needs around this and support will be put in place. This may include but will not be limited to:

- One – planning
- Communication aids
- Referrals to paediatrician
- Support from Speech and Language Therapy or Occupational Therapy
- Support from Health Visitor or Specialist Health Visitor
- Support from Inclusion Partner

It is not our approach to segregate children that have difficulty in this area but to support them in moving past this developmental stage.

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