

Edgeworth Child Care Centre Inc.

Biting Policy

Aim

To inform and protect all Educators/Staff, relevant employees, visitors, families and children who interact with or use the Service, of the requirements regarding the prevention of biting and treating a bite from a child to another person accessing the service.

Legislative Requirements

Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011
Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
National Quality Standards 2011

Who is affected by this policy?

Children
Families
Staff
Community
Visitors

Implementation

It is important that all people involved in caring for young children need to recognise that at times, some children, for a variety of reasons, attempt to bite other children.

There are a number of reasons that children may bite and some can be identified. For example:

- Infants: Experimental, Sensory Pleasure, Teething
- Toddlers: Frustration, Fatigue, Attention-Seeking, Confined Spaces
- Older Children: Aggression, Deliberate, Attention-Seeking

All Educators/Staff should be aware of and possess knowledge of the reasons why a child may bite, and the potential consequences of a child biting another individual. Educators/Staff need to implement strategies to minimise biting incidents. These strategies are based on the individual needs of each child.

When a bite does occur, Educators/Staff will:

- Check for broken skin.
- Clean all bites, regardless of whether the skin is broken or not.
- Apply a cold compress to the bitten area.
- Staff will notify the families of the child who has bitten and the child that has been bitten as soon as possible. It is up to the families' discretion should they wish to seek medical treatment.
- If the child who has bitten another, is known to be a carrier of an infectious disease and the victim's skin is broken, the Approved Provider or Nominated/Certified Supervisor will convey this information to the family.

- Should the behaviour continue, Educators/Staff will work in conjunction with families and, if necessary, external agencies, to develop an Individual Service Plan (ISP), and behaviour guidance management strategies, to assist the child through this stage of their development.
- Educators/Staff will complete an incident report for any occasion where a child bites and submit to the Nominated Supervisor/Approved Provider.
- Monitor the behaviour of the child who has bitten and use distraction techniques to prevent the child from biting.

We encourage families to discuss this policy with us upon enrolment, so they are aware of the strategies we implement should a child bite another child.

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.

Sources

Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

National Quality Standards 2011

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

NSW WorkCover www.workcover.nsw.gov.au Retrieved: 25 10 17

Raising Children Network Australia www.raisingchildren.net.au

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually. Review will be conducted by management, employees, parents and any interested parties.

Reviewed: 25 October 2017

Date for next review: October 2018