

# Biting Policy

Indooroopilly Montessori Children's House  
Date: March 2008  
Dates Reviewed: **March 2009**

## Rationale

Reasons for biting and ways of dealing with it differ with children under 3 years and those over 3 years. Children under 3 years may bite because

- They are teething
- They are being impulsive
- They have been bitten by other children and are passing on the same behaviour
- It causes an instant reaction from the other person
- They are frustrated and cannot use words to describe their feelings.

Children over 3 years, usually have more understanding of how hurtful and unacceptable biting is, and they should be able to control their urges to bite.

## Aim

To provide direction and guidance to staff, parents and students on how best to handle the situation where a child is bitten or where a child bites.

## Implementation

**Staff will** manage biting behaviour by

- Thorough supervision of children
- A calm and patient approach
- Not giving a big reaction when a child has bitten
- Through observation and planning, trying to determine what triggers the biting
- Setting up an appropriate environment that encourages the sharing of toys as well as individual experiences to reduce frustration.
- Consistent reactions of disapproval to biting by saying in a firm tone, "Biting hurts," rather than saying, "No".

**Staff will** follow the procedure below when biting has occurred:

1. Remove the biter from area immediately to protect the other children
2. Administer first aid to the child who has been bitten
  - Wipe the bitten area with saline solution or an antiseptic wipe
  - Apply a cold compress while comforting the child
3. Encourage the biter to show empathy to the child who has been bitten
4. Read the biter the behavioural teaching book, "Teeth are not for biting"

5. Complete an incident report (injured party) for the child who has been bitten, ensure parents are given a copy at the end of the session
6. Complete an incident report (other party) for the child who has bitten, ensure parents are given a copy at the end of the session
7. Discuss with the biter's parents the planning strategies being put in place to prevent further incidences
8. File the incident reports and planning strategies in the child's file
9. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE will the staff inform parents the name of the other child involved in the incident.

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### **Sources**

NCAC Fact Sheet: **Biting in Child Care** – Anne Stonehouse

Care for Kids.com.au: “**Successfully dealing with a child who bites**”

**Biting, Pushing, Pulling Hair and Helping Children with Aggression** – Patty Wipfler

**Biting in the Child Care Setting** – Health and Safety Notes Californian Child care Health Program