

Biting Policy



Oyster Bay Nursery

Draft Prepared	Sept 2025
Signed by Executive Headteacher	Ms D Hines
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Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible

At Oyster Bay Nursery, we understand that biting, while distressing, is a typical behaviour among young children, particularly in larger groups. We want to reassure parents that this is normal at this age.

We aim to educate parents that biting is a normal behaviour or phase for **some** young children. Babies and toddlers often bite for several reasons:

- Teething
- Tiredness
- Jealousy
- Frustration
- Lack of communication

Babies and young children may bite to observe reactions as they experiment with and explore their world. Biting can also help relieve teething discomfort. While biting in young babies is generally not a concern, it is important to redirect this behaviour early on.

Biting tends to increase between the ages of 13 and 30 months but should stop around 3 years old. Many toddlers bite because they are frustrated and cannot express themselves verbally. It can also be a sign of assertive behaviour.

One of the most challenging things about having a child who bites is the reaction of the other parents. Unless a parent has a child who bites or has bitten, it may be difficult for them to understand that biting is a normal developmental behaviour.

If a child bites another child, we will notify the parents of both involved. We believe in a collaborative approach and are committed to supporting parents in helping their child stop biting by using the strategies outlined below.

We will:

- recommend seeking advice from a medical professional if the bite breaks the skin.
- teach the child to understand that biting is not acceptable. We will do this by looking at the child in the eye and saying, "No biting," "It hurts."
- give the child who has been bitten our full attention, comfort and provide any necessary medical treatment.
- Ensure children are given space from each other directly after the incident and supported in rebuilding a relationship afterwards.
- ensure staff try to teach the child that biting is not appropriate.

- record the bite via our Blossom App. A phone call will be made to parents at home.
- not identify the child who has been bitten to the other parents.
- Staff will seek advice from the SENDco if the above does not improve the situation.