

MANAGING BITING BEHAVIOUR PROCEDURE

Biting is a common behaviour among young children. Creating an inclusive environment for children can become complex when there is an issue with biting. Children's biting is stressful and impacts the early childhood community including, children, educators and families.

Working in conjunction with the Behaviour Guidance Policy, this procedure provides detailed steps for educators to support children to gain understanding and learn skills that will help them to manage their own behaviour.

Education and Care Services National Law or Regulations (R.155, 156, 168, 174 and 175). NQS QA5 and 6: Element 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.1, 5.2.2 and 6.1 Relationships with children

Related Policy: Behaviour Guidance Policy

RESPONDING TO BITING BEHAVIOUR		
1	Get the child's attention who is biting to stop the behaviour ("_____, stop").	
2	Attend to the child who has been bitten as a priority, administering first aid if necessary and providing reassurance. Once the child who has been bitten is ok, attend to the child who was biting	
3	Use a calm but stern voice to communicate with the child that biting is never acceptable and that it hurts	
4	Re-direct the child if necessary, to another activity, ensuring there is adequate interesting resources available	
5	Complete an <i>Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Record</i> for child who was bitten/injured. Adhere to privacy principles and do not name the child who has bitten the child	
6	Assess the routines, activities and experiences and analyse to ascertain if there are specific patterns associated with recurring biting incidents	
7	Make changes to routines and/or experiences being provided as per analysis	
8	If biting is continuous, meet the family to develop strategies to reduce or prevent the biting behaviour	
9	If required, work with other professionals to develop specific management strategies	

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT BITING FROM OCCURRING		
1	If you can see a child is becoming frustrated, verbalise what you observe to the child: "I can see you are frustrated because you want that toy."	
2	Work together with the child to come up with how the problem can be resolved. For example, is there another toy you can give the child?	
3	If a child bites because they become overwhelmed playing near or with other children, join in the child's play by sitting with them. The child may require assistance to understanding other children's ideas. The child may require guidance to learn and practice how to join in play and communicate with other children.	
4	If a child is biting for oral stimulation, offer them a teething rusk or provide a teething toy, which can be frozen.	
5	If a child is biting because they are tired, you may need to look at their individual routine and put them to bed when required, rather than according to the room's schedule.	
6	If a child is biting because they are bored, look at the child's interests. You may need to change the environment by rotating toys and equipment to provide more stimulating experiences.	