



5 Behaviour Management Policy (including Biting)

Policy Statement

Summertime is committed to promoting positive behaviour within an inclusive, respectful, and nurturing environment. We work in close partnership with parents, carers, and external professionals to ensure that every child is supported to develop self-esteem, self-regulation, and positive social skills in line with our ethos and the EYFS framework.

Aims

- To develop positive strategies that encourage children's development and appropriate behaviour.
- To ensure all children feel valued, respected, and safe.
- To involve parents/carers in decisions about their child's behaviour and well-being.
- To establish consistent and fair boundaries to support children's emotional and social growth.

Partnership with Parents and Carers

- Staff will work collaboratively with parents/carers, taking into account their wishes, aspirations, and cultural or religious practices.
- Parents/carers will be informed of significant behavioural concerns and involved in creating individualised strategies for their child where necessary.
- Shared information will remain confidential and handled sensitively.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

- Staff will model and encourage kindness, respect, and empathy, using strategies such as:
 - Praise and positive reinforcement
 - Redirection and distraction
 - Compromise and managed choices
 - Emotional literacy activities (helping children name and manage their feelings)
- Children will be involved in setting and negotiating rules to develop responsibility and understanding of expectations.
- Clear boundaries (e.g., "kind hands, kind feet") will be embedded in daily routines.

Responding to Challenging Behaviour

- Discriminatory comments or behaviour from any child, parent/carer, or staff member will not be tolerated and will be addressed promptly.
- Anti-social behaviours (e.g., biting, hitting, kicking) will be discouraged and managed consistently.
- Repeated challenging behaviour will be:
 - Monitored and recorded.
 - Discussed with the child's parents/carers, key person, and SENCO.
 - Supported through an Individual Action Plan if needed.
 - Referred to external agencies (with parental consent) if progress remains limited.

Supporting Emotional Regulation

- Children showing signs of dysregulation will be offered:
 - 'Time in' or calm-down time in a quiet, low-stimulation area with a supportive adult present.
 - Opportunities to re-join peers when ready.
- These strategies will never be used to humiliate or isolate a child.

Physical Intervention

- Only used as a last resort to prevent harm to the child, others, or property.
- Gentle and firm restraint may be applied if necessary.
- All incidents of physical intervention will be recorded and shared with parents/carers.

Prohibited Practices

- Smacking, shaking, physical punishment, or humiliation are strictly prohibited and will never be tolerated.

9. Inclusion and Respect for Diversity

- All children will be treated as individuals, with respect for their culture, religion, gender, and any disabilities.
- Discrimination in any form will be challenged and addressed.
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Summertime Nursery & Preschool Biting

At Summertime Nursery, our goal is to create a safe, nurturing environment where all children feel secure and supported. This policy outlines how we respond to and prevent biting, recognising it as a common developmental behaviour in early childhood.

Our Approach

We aim to protect children while helping them learn appropriate social behaviours and ways to express their feelings.

When Biting Occurs

- Staff will ensure the immediate safety of all children involved.
- First aid and reassurance will be given to the child who has been bitten.
- An Incident Report will be completed, detailing what happened and actions taken.
- Parents of both children will be informed promptly.

Supporting the Child Who Bit

- Staff will respond calmly and appropriately for the child's age.
- The child will be told that biting is not acceptable.
- Staff will guide the child towards alternative ways to express emotions, such as using words or seeking help.

Prevention Strategies

- Staff will observe and identify possible triggers (e.g. frustration, teething, tiredness).
- Activities will be planned to support engagement, empathy, and kindness.
- Positive behaviour will be encouraged and reinforced.

Working with Parents

- Open communication with families is essential.
- Staff will share observations and strategies to support the child at both nursery and home.
- Where needed, a behaviour support plan will be developed in partnership with parents.

This consistent approach helps ensure the wellbeing of all children while supporting their social and emotional development.

Cathy White
Manager September 2026