

## EYFS BITING POLICY

At Deira Private School (DePS), we recognise that **biting is a common developmental stage** for many young children, with research suggesting that up to a quarter of children may bite at some point. While this behaviour can be **upsetting for both the child and the parents involved**, it is often a temporary and manageable phase of early development.

### WHY DO CHILDREN BITE?

- **Exploration** –Young children explore the environment around them using their senses, young children do not always know the difference between chewing on a toy and biting someone.
- **Attention** – When young children are in situations where they feel they are not receiving enough attention, biting is a quick way of becoming the centre of attention.
- **Frustration** – Children can often be frustrated by a number of things, such as; wanting to be independent, do things for themselves and not having a vocabulary to express themselves clearly. This can lead to biting as a way of dealing with this frustration.

### WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT BITING?

- We understand that if the child has been bitten or has bitten someone, this can be very distressing for the parents so they can speak to staff about any concerns they may have in a calm manner.
- The staff should not give any information about any other child and cannot disclose who has bitten the child or who the child has bitten.
- At DePS we like to work closely with all involved to reduce and eliminate these issues.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF CHILD IS BITTEN?

- The child should be comforted and reassured.
- The child will be taken to the nurse and the bite wound will then be washed and cleaned by the nurse with an antiseptic wipe.
- A bleeding wound will be allowed to bleed and not be covered to reduce the risk of infection.
- When the parents come to collect the child there will be an incident form completed by the teacher and by the nurse and the EYFS head should always check and sign this, it will have all the information about the biting incident and any treatment given.

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