



## Early Years Inclusion Team

### Biting Child

#### What do we need to know?

**Q.** How old is the child?

(Many under three's may have a phase of biting)

**Q.** What is his/her physical development like?

**Q.** Is he/she teething?

**Q.** How do they communicate? Is his/her speech and language development age appropriate?

**Q.** What does he/she like doing at nursery?

**Q.** How long has he been at nursery? Has he/she developed a good relationship with practitioners?

**Q.** How long has he been coming to nursery? Has s/he developed a good relationship with practitioners?

**Q.** Does s/he do it at home? What do the parents do when it happens?

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### Biting

Biting is very common in early childhood. Babies and toddlers bite for a variety of reasons, such as teething or exploring a new toy or object with their mouth. As they begin to understand cause-and-effect, they also might bite a person to see if they can get a reaction

Things to consider when a child is biting.....

#### What may be going on?

- Jealousy/competition for attention
- Busy working parents.
- Inconsistencies, different adults giving mixed messages.
- Still mouthing generally.
- Age appropriate phase.
- TOO MUCH INTERVENTION.



#### What support can we offer?



- Suggest a dental appointment.
- Does s/he need things that s/he can bite?



- Parents and carers to provide consistent quality individual attention - built into the routine.
- Both home and nursery have consistent strategy to
- Adult attention given when not biting
- Anticipation - intervene before biting occurs - divert the child's attention.
- Clear message and very limited attention when it does happen.
- Lots of attention for bitten child



biting.