



## **Biting Policy**

### ***Rationale/Purpose***

The well being of all children who are enrolled is paramount. We also recognise that biting is a normal part of young children's development. Consistency in behaviour guidance is essential for reducing the instances of this particular behaviour.

### ***Broad Guidelines:***

- Parents will always be informed if their child has bitten or was bitten.
- Teachers will NOT give out the name of any other child involved.
- When a child bites our positive guidance policy is followed. Teacher attention is mainly focused on the child who has been bitten, in caring for them and ensuring they feel better.
- Teachers will help children who have been bitten to increase their skills of assertiveness.
- An explanation is given to the child who has bitten that such behaviour is not acceptable. They are encouraged to use words to communicate their feelings.
- When a child is constantly biting a specific behaviour guidance strategy will be written by the teachers and discussed with the child's parents. Teachers will try to recognise and prevent occurrences of biting, to reduce harm to others and help children learn more positive strategies for social engagement.
- All teachers both permanent and casual will be made aware of behaviour guidance procedures for biting.
- Much has been written on the subject of biting in preschool aged children and written information will be made available to parents who are concerned.
- Parents will be reassured that biting is a normal behaviour in young children and everything is being done to reduce the instances of biting within the centre.
- Teachers will give informal feedback to any concerned parent regarding the progress of specific behaviour guidance strategies in place. Specific time should be made for parents wishing to discuss issues with teachers in more depth.
- Children who bite will not be excluded from our programme.
- If the specific behaviour guidance programme outlined in our Positive Guidance Policy fails to reduce the instances of biting, outside help will be sought from specialist education services.

### ***Lines of Responsibility:***

Principal Teacher and Staff

### ***Links to Other Documentation:***

Te Whaariki – G.3, G2

Date: May 2010

Review Date: May 2011

Signed:

Responsibility for Review: Principal Teacher