Biting

The Two Wells Community Children’s Centre has a duty of care to all children attending the centre, with this in mind the following steps maybe necessary to ensure the safety of all involved. For the purpose of this document the child who bites is referred to as “the biter”.

There are many reasons for children biting – lack of communication skills (ie speech and language difficulties), frustration, boredom, teething, tiredness, general illness, change of lifestyle, emotional insecurity, “invasion of personal space” etc. Below are the procedures staff may follow to try and prevent children at the centre from biting, being bitten and also to help the biter modify their behaviour.

Supervision

Two Wells Community Children’s Centre has a variety of ages in the one room, If there is a child in the room that is a known biter, all staff members are made aware of the situation to ensure that all children are in an environment that is safe, and to ensure that the child is not placed in a situation that would increase the chance that they may bite another child.

Action

If a child does bite another child, the bitten child will be comforted and first aid will be carried out. The biter will be given an explanation describing that he/she has hurt the other child, and with a staff member work toward stopping this behaviour in the future. AT NO TIME WILL THE CHILD BE TREATED IN A NEGATIVE MANNER.

If a child bites more than twice in one session, or the severity of the bite eg draws blood or, staff deem the child’s biting and/or behaviour is becoming dangerous for other children or staff, their parent/guardian will be called to collect them immediately, and the child may be excluded for a short period of time. If the parent/s is unavailable to be contacted staff will then begin contacting the emergency contact numbers for the child (biter) to be collected. Staff will then continue to try contacting the parents to inform them of the incident.

Documenting

Depending on the severity of the bite, the staff, once the bitten child’s wellbeing is settled will take a photo of the bite ASAP and then take a second photo approx 1 hour after the initial bite. If the bite occurs in an area that is inappropriate to photograph for example the bottom, chest, penis or vagina area the staff will draw a picture of the bites location with a brief description and get a second member of staff to view the bite and it’s severity. This documentation is to be kept on file for the biter and the bitee.

Forms

An accident report is completed for the parent of the child who has been bitten. The centre will also inform the biters parents.

Information on biting will be given to all families on a regular basis, such as in the Centre newsletter.

If necessary, strategies can be developed in consultation with the family (whose children are bitters) to assist them and the child to understand their behaviour.

This is also discussed with all centre staff to ensure that all staff are aware of the situation to help prevent it from happening.
If in the event a child will bite another child two or more times; staff will begin documenting the incidences in a ‘Biting Log’ for that child. With this information the staff will be able determine patterns in behaviour that lead to biting incidences, and work toward stopping these biting incidences happening.

If the biting continues and it becomes a constant issue; the Director / Assistant Director will arrange a meeting with the parent / caregiver to develop a ‘Biting Plan’, that ensures biting management at the centre is consistent between the centre and home.

Observations and Future Planning
Staff will take observations on the child/ren who are biting to determine the reason of the behaviour and its triggers.

Different strategies are provided to continue to address the behavioural problems.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governing Council Member's Signature:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Director’s Signature:</td>
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Two Wells Community Children’s Centre’s Common Seal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Reviewed:</th>
<th>31st July 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Next Review Due:</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
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| Sources: | CAYHS, and the Parent Information Line, 2010  
Parenting SA pamphlets Children Biting 2009  
## Biting Log

Child’s Name: ______________________

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<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Area in Centre (where the incident took place)</th>
<th>Description of the Incident</th>
<th>Staff Name</th>
<th>Staff Signature</th>
<th>Parent Name</th>
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CONFIDENTIAL (on First Entry)
Biting Plan

Child's Name: ___________________________________________________________________________

Parent/s Names: _______________________________________________________________________

Date Plan Implemented: _________________

This Biting Care Plan created by both parents and staff is to ensure the biting management is consistent while at care and at home.

Step 1: ________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Step 2: ________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

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Step 3: ________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

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Step 4: ________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Parent 1: 

(name in block letters) 

(signature)

Parent 2: 

(name in block letters) 

(signature)

Staff Member: 

(name in block letters) 

(signature)

Director: 

(name in block letters) 

(signature)