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**BITING** **POLICY**

**RATIONALE**

At Flying Kiwi Preschool the well-being of all tamariki enrolled is paramount. We also recognise that biting can be a normal part of young tamariki development. Consistency in behaviour guidance is essential for reducing the instances of this particular behaviour.

**TE** **WHĀRIKI**

***Well-being/******Mana******atua******-******Goal******3:***Tamariki experience an environment where they are kept safe from harm.

***Communication/******Mana******reo******-******Goal******2:*** Tamariki experience an environment where they develop verbal communication skills for a range of purposes.

**Licensing** **Criteria** **for** **Early** **Childhood** **Education** **&** **Care** **Services** **2008**

**Curriculum:** **Children** **as** **Learners**

* **C10:** The service curriculum supports children's developing social competence and understanding of appropriate behaviour.

**Curriculum: Working with Others**

* **C11:** Positive steps are taken to respect and acknowledge the aspirations held by parents and whānau for their children.
* **C12:** Regular opportunities (formal and informal) are provided for parents to communicate with adults providing education and care about their child, share specific evidence of the child's learning; and be involved in decision-making concerning their child's learning.

**PROCEDURES**

* The curriculum and kaiako will support tamariki to develop social competence and understanding of appropriate behaviour around biting.
* Kaiako will ensure positive steps are taken to respect and acknowledge the aspirations held by mātua and whānau for their tamariki and how they can support their tamariki during this time of development and learning.
* Kaiako will regularly offer opportunities (formally and informally) with mātua to communicate about their tamariki, share specific evidence, concerns, and progress of specific behaviour guidance strategies in place. Specific time will be made for mātua wishing to discuss issues with kaiako in more depth.
* Mātua will be informed if their tamaiti has bitten or was bitten.
* When a tamaiki is constantly biting, a specific behaviour guidance plan will be written by the kaiako and discussed with the mātua. Kaiako will try to recognise triggers and prevent occurrences of biting, to reduce harm to others and help tamariki learn more positive strategies for social engagement.
* Kaiako will NOT give out the name of any other tamaiki involved.
* When a tamaiki bites, our Behaviour Guidance Policy is followed. Kaiako attention is mainly focused on the tamaiti who has been bitten, in caring for them and ensuring they feel better.
* Kaiako will support tamariki who have been bitten. For instance, supporting them in developing strategies to protect themselves from harm and being bitten again.
* An explanation is given to the tamaiti who has bitten that such behaviour is not acceptable. They are encouraged to use words and/or gentle hands to communicate their feelings.
* All kaiako, both permanent and casual, will be made aware of behaviour guidance procedures for biting.
* Much has been written on the subject of biting in early childhood. Written information will be made available to mātua who are concerned.
* Mātua will be reassured that biting is a normal behaviour in young tamariki and everything is being done to reduce the instances of biting within the centre.
* Kaiako will give informal feedback to any concerned mātua regarding the progress of specific behaviour guidance strategies in place. Specific time will be made for mātua wishing to discuss issues with kaiako in more depth.
* Tamariki who bite will not be excluded from our programme.
* If the specific behaviour guidance plan written by Flying Kiwi Preschool kaiako fails to reduce the instances of biting, external support will be sought from specialist education services.

**LINKS** **TO:**

* Behaviour Guidance Policy

**Date** **approved:**

**Review** **date:**