



# Bites, Stings and Poisoning Procedures

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## 1. Immediate Response

- Stay calm and assess the situation: Ensure the safety of all children by moving them to a safe area if the hazard is still present (e.g., bees or snakes nearby).
- Reassure the Child: Comfort the child to keep them calm.

## 2. Administer First Aid

For bee stings or insect bites:

- Remove the stinger (if present) by scraping it gently with a flat edge, like a credit card.
- Apply a cold pack to reduce swelling and pain.
- Monitor for allergic reactions, such as difficulty breathing, swelling of the face or throat, or widespread rash.

For snake bites:

- Call 000 immediately.
- Keep the child as still as possible and calm to slow the spread of venom.
- Apply a pressure bandage to the affected limb and immobilise it, keeping the bite area still and lower than the heart.
- Mark bite site with a pen.
- Note down any details known about the snake.
- Monitor child closely.

For poisonous plants or substances:

- If the child has touched the plant, wash the affected area with soap and water or wipe clean.
- In case of eye contact, irrigate the eyes with clear running water for 20 minutes (or as long as possible in case of no running water nearby).
- If ingested, remove plant pieces and rinse the mouth.
- Call 13 11 26 (Poisons Information Centre) for advice.
- Take photo of the plant.

## 3. Emergency Action

If the child shows signs of an allergic reaction, poisoning, or severe distress:

- Call 000 immediately.
- Administer an epinephrine auto-injector (e.g., EpiPen) if the child has a known allergy and it has been prescribed.
- Follow the advice of emergency responders.

#### **4. Notify Parents/Guardians**

Contact the child's parent/guardian as soon as it is safe to do so (contact details on Medical and Emergency Information sheet). Provide details of the incident and steps taken.

If medical treatment is required, inform the parents of the location and status of the child.

#### **5. Documentation**

Complete an Incident Report Form detailing:

- Date, time, and location of the incident.
- Nature of the bite/sting/poisoning.
- Actions taken, including first aid and emergency response.
- Follow-up actions.

#### **6. Preventative Measures**

- Create designated play areas with clear boundaries.
- Ensure children wear appropriate clothing and footwear.
- Educate children on avoiding dangerous plants, insects, and animals during outdoor activities; especially not to eat anything that they find.
- Ensure a fully stocked first aid kit is available at all times.