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### Dog bites toddler at nursery

11/ 3/2008

A BOY of two was bitten at a nursery by a dog and had to be treated in hospital for injuries to his face.

James Shaw (pictured with his mum) was said to have been lucky not to have lost an eye in the incident at the Buffer Bear nursery in Wythenshawe.

He was attacked inside the £30-a-day nursery as he went to stroke the dog in the corridor.

It is understood the dog was taken into the building by a parent who had arrived to collect another child.

Managers have launched an investigation into the incident and ordered staff to put up signs warning parents not to bring dogs into the nursery.

James' mum Wendy Barker, 36, said: "I can't believe that someone has let a dog in there.

"It's not something that should be allowed to happen. You put your child into a nursery so they can be looked after, not so that they can be bitten by a dog.

"I think it's disgusting that the dog was allowed in the nursery."

#### Sturdy

It is understood the dog, thought to be a Shih Tzu, a small sturdy breed, was taken into the nursery by another boy's mum and grandfather when they went to pick him up.

They were allowed into the nursery after they pressed a buzzer on a security door.

James was taken to Wythenshawe Hospital for treatment to cuts to his eyelid, cheek and top lip. He was sent home with a course of antibiotics.

His father John Shaw, 35, from Benchill, said the nursery place costs the family £600 a month. They are now considering taking James elsewhere.

He said: "James has been left terrified of dogs and he can't sleep after this. He could have lost an eye."

The nursery is based at the Wythenshawe Forum community centre. Buffer Bear operates a chain of 26 nurseries around the country. Kay Turner, managing director of the Reading-based firm, said an investigation had been launched and witness statements had been taken from staff and parents.

Education watchdog [Ofsted](#) and the police have also been informed.

Jeff Stanforth, of Wythenshawe Forum, said: "We take this incident very seriously and will be investigating."

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If you take your dog to school or nursery to pick your child up then there is a chance that your dog could bite a child no matter how careful you are or how well behaved your dog usually is. If you don't take your dog then obviously it won't happen. There's no excuse, leave your dog at home. Or does that infringe your dog's rights?

lebist, Blackley

11/03/2008 at 14:23

I take my West Highland pup to my daughter's nursery and my son's school to collect them, however, I either carry her or have her on a tight lead and I never go into the building with her. What surprises me is the

number of children who race over and start grabbing at her. I have to constantly tell them not to and move the dog out of their reach - she has never bitten but you never know. I appreciate this lad is young and the circumstances were different, but parent's should firmly make their children understand that they should never ever approach a strange dog, even if it is with their owner. If a child runs over and startles the dog who then snaps, it is me who would get the blame yet parents happily stand by and watch the children do it. In this case, the dog owner should never have taken the dog inside and once they did, a member of staff should have immediately told them to take it outside - both are to blame. Not the poor dog.  
**Manchester Born & Bred, Manchester**  
11/03/2008 at 13:38

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