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Dog-bite boy back at kindy

10th May 2010

There was more than a little trepidation for 3-year-old Tyler Hatton as he returned to kindergarten this morning - four days after being nipped on the face by a police dog.

Tyler received minor cuts to his face after a police dog, which had been performing for the 39 youngsters at Riversdale Kindergarten in Taradale, nipped him as he patted it.

"He was pretty concerned about going back," his father, Matthew, said.

"But we've sussed something out for him, with one of his little friends, to help him settle back in."

Getting him ready this morning, Tyler's mum said he was worried about returning, but once he realised the police dog wasn't there he would likely get on with doing what 3-year-olds get on with at kindergarten.

"We're putting a lot of things in place for him."

Although the family had owned a dog until recently and Tyler was happy in its company, he was no longer so sure about them.

"It has put him off dogs."

Most of the swelling from the bite had gone down and Tyler was about "80 per cent right" his father said.

The family were not angry with the dog handler, or the dog, and had been visited by police who apologised for what happened.

The handler was said to have been very upset, as it was out of character for his dog, which was used to children, to react the way it did.

The dog was being assessed by a senior dog handler.

Police had carried out many school and kindergarten visits without incident, although the Napier Kindergarten Association had suspended visits by dog section handlers and dogs until it had been fully looked into.



NO MORE DOGS: Tyler Hatton heads back to kindy as sister Deanna, 13 months, watches on.

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