

## Biting Policy

Young children need lots of practice in learning the fine art of interacting with their families in a positive way. They need positive guidance and understanding from parents and teachers. When children gain maturity and experience, and become preschoolers (3+ years old), they are expected to have developed appropriate ways of expressing themselves and interacting with their peers rather than biting.

Biting is a natural developmental stage for some children. It is usually a temporary condition that is most common between 13 and 36 months of age.

Young children bite others for many different reasons. A child might be teething, or overly tired and/or frustrated. He/she might be experimenting or trying to get the attention of the teacher or his peers. These young children have undeveloped verbal skills and are naturally impulsive. Sometimes, biting occurs for no apparent reason.

The following steps will be taken if a biting incident occurs at our center:

- Staff will monitor biter's behavior very closely in order to proactively deter biting.
- The biting will be interrupted with a firm "NO, we don't bite people!"
- Staff will stay calm and will not overreact.
- Staff will remove the biter from the situation in order to redirect the biter's attention.
- The bitten child will be comforted.
- The wound of the bitten child will be assessed and cleansed with soap and water.
- The parents of both children will be notified of the biting accident.
- **Confidentiality of any child involved will be maintained.**
- Appropriate forms will be completed.
- The bitten area should continue to be observed by parents and staff for signs of infection.

### **If persistent biting occurs by the same child, the following policy will be implemented:**

Parents will be called and the child will be sent home if, on that day, the child has one biting incident that left broken skin or two biting incidents where the other person's skin was not broken. If another biting incident occurs within five (5) days of the first incident, the child will be suspended for a week. After suspension, if biting continues, the Director may dis-enroll the child.

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Child's Name

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Program

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Parent's Signature

Date

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Director's Signature