



Biting Policy

Young children need lots of practice in learning the fine art of interacting and communicating with their friends and 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. Some 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.
- 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 for all children involved.
- 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:

Staff will monitor biter's behavior. An incident log will be kept to document date, time, classroom environment and the biters demeanor the day of the incident. Parents will be contacted after each incident. After three incidents a meeting request will be sent home. The director, teacher and parent will meet to discuss the incidents and what can be done as a team to prevent further incidents. As educator's, Chappell realizes the importance of consistency and the need for uniformity of all team members. The team will continue to meet to review the incident log until the child has successfully gone a week without biting, By signing this agreement, the parent agrees to allow for Chappell to bring in outside services if they deem necessary to assist in redirecting the behavior. If at any point, the situation becomes a safety issue to the child or other children in our care, or the parent refuses to cooperate with the center, the Director may choose to suspend the child. After suspension, if biting continues, the Director may dis-enroll the child. As with all policies, the Director, with Corporate approval of documentation, may use their judgement to suspend, terminate or take other action.

Child's Name

Program

Parent's Signature

Date

Director's Signature