

Biting Policy Part 1

Biting is one of the areas of most concerns that parents have while their child/children are in a child day care setting. Biting is the most difficult behavior to correct.

Parents are solely responsible to correct a child's behavior which in some cases requires a parent's concentrated supervision and discipline to correct the situation.

As the child day care provider we can only support and assist the parents in their efforts to correct negative behavior. We cannot give the one on one supervision in the day care setting because of staff ratio requirements and the affordability. We reserve the sole right to refuse to provide care to a child who bites immediately if necessary for the following reasons: A young child learns by example. If one child starts to bite in a group in a few days if not sooner we may have an epidemic of biters on our hands. Our goal is to provide a safe environment for all of the children.

Therefore we have to take the appropriate measures based on the frequency and severity of the bite, the age of the children involved and any other mitigating factors, We reserve the right to refuse to provide care for a child who bites immediately if necessary to protect the other children in our care.

Part 2 attached Please sign and return

Biting Policy

Our program recognizes that biting is, unfortunately, not unexpected when toddlers are in group care. We are always upset when children are bitten in our program, and we recognize how upsetting it is for parents. While we feel that biting is never the right thing for toddlers to do, we know that they bite for a variety of reasons. Most of these reasons are not related to behavior problems. Our program, then, does not focus on punishment for biting, but on effective techniques that address the specific reason for the biting. When biting occurs, we have three main responses:

1. Care for and help the child who was bitten
2. Help the child who bit learn other behavior
3. Work with the child who bit and examine our program to stop the biting

Our teachers express strong disapproval of biting. They work to keep children safe and to help the child who bit learn different, more appropriate behavior. When there are episodes of ongoing biting, we develop a plan of specific strategies, techniques, and timeliness to address it. We do not and will not use any response that harms a child or is known to be ineffective.

We give immediate attention and, if necessary, first aid to children who are bitten. We offer to put ice on the bite if the child is willing. If the skin is broken, we clean the wound with soap and water.

When children bite, their parents are informed personally and privately the same day. When children are bitten, their parents are informed personally that day and given a copy of our incident form. When we experience ongoing biting in a toddler room, we develop a written plan with specific strategies, techniques, and timeliness to work on the problem. This written plan is shared with all parents in the room.

Biting is always documented on our standard incident report form. It is completed and signed by a teacher. It must also be signed by the parent. One copy is given to the parents, and the other copy is kept in the incident report book in the office.

We keep the name of the child who bit confidential. This is to avoid labeling and to give our teachers the opportunity to use their time and energy to work on stopping the biting.

Additional information on biting and toddlers is available for parents. We also encourage parents to bring their concerns and frustrations directly to the teachers.

Child's Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____