

Biting Policy & Procedure

Team Members must discourage and stop all children from biting others and/or themselves. When or if a child successfully bites another child 2 times within a 1 week period, a parent meeting must be held to complete the **Parent Biting Meeting Summary/Action Plan form**.

In all situations that a child bites another child resulting in breaking skin, the Biter must be sent home for the remainder of that day of care.

Procedure

When a Biting Incident Occurs

- Comfort the child who was bitten.
- Cleanse the wound with anti-bacterial soap and water.
- Provide an ice pack to reduce pain and swelling.
- Provide comfort for the wounded child by saying something like, "That really hurt! You don't like it when your friend bites your arm." This statement validates the child's feelings.
- The teacher should inform the Program Director right away.
- After being notified by the teacher, the Program Director should contact the parent or guardian of the child who was bitten.

After Comforting the Child Who Was Bitten

- Calmly approach the child who bit. Many times these children feel overwhelmed and afraid after they bit. They need comfort, too.
- Comfort the child who bit by saying something like, "You seem sad that your friend's arm is hurt from the bite."
- Help the child who bit to understand the hurt their friend is feeling by offering to let him/her talk to his/her friend. Say something like, "Would you like to see Sally now? You can tell her that you hope she feels better soon."
- Older toddlers can learn a lot from being allowed to comfort their friend after a bite has occurred. The child who bit may want to see the injury. That's okay if the injured child wants to show it. Do not force either child to have this interaction. Both must be willing.

Informing Parents

Step #1: Notifying the victim's parent

- Team Member must immediately inform the Director then use Procare's Admin Feature to contact the parent or guardian of the child that was bit after a biting incident.
- Teachers must complete an Incident Report via Procare to appropriately record the incident in its entirety.

- Assure parents that you have taken care of the situation and that you are taking measures to prevent further incidents.
- Explain to them what your plan of action is, if they ask. Step #2:

Notifying the biter's parent

- Program Directors must immediately use Procare's Admin Feature to contact the parent or guardian to inform the parents that their child bit someone.
- Teachers must complete an Incident Report to appropriately record the incident in its entirety.
- Stress the severity or mildness of the incident.
- If this is a recurring problem, work with the parents on a plan of action that will be reinforced in the home.

After the Biting Incident

- Teacher will immediately begin "shadowing" the biting child as much as possible. Shadowing will begin after the first bite.
- A meeting will be scheduled if necessary with the parent of the child who is biting, the child's teacher, and the Program Director to discuss possible reasons for the biting behavior. All Incident Reports must be reviewed at the meeting. A Problem Solving Action Plan will be completed.
- Implementation of the Problem Solving Action Plan will begin immediately following the meeting.
- After one week of following the Problem Solving Action Plan, the Program Director will send a message using the Procare Admin Feature to discuss the behavior and any progress.
- At any time that a child bites another child and the bite breaks the skin, the child who bit may be sent home for the day. This will be at the Program Director's discretion.

If the above steps have not proven effective, the following are recommendations (at least two options must be utilized):

- A Parent-Teacher-Director meeting will be scheduled to discuss whether the child may be ready for another classroom. If possible the child may be moved up to the next classroom. The behavior may be changed with a change in environment.
- Consult a professional, such as a doctor, dentist or community resources.
- The child's parent(s) should be encouraged to come in and shadow for a portion of the day when biting is most likely to occur. They may be able to aid in discouragement of the behavior more effectively when they are physically present at the time.
- An additional teacher can be added to the classroom at the cost of the parent to "shadow" the child constantly during the duration of their time at the center. This may only continue for 7 days if there is no progress being noted.

If, after the above listed items have been put into place, the biting continues, we do reserve the right to dismiss the child from the program.

Dismissal may also take place immediately if the child's parent(s) does/do not comply with the arrangements or is/are not willing to cooperate with any of the above arrangements.