

## **Biting Policy**

We recognize that biting is a terrible thing for the hurt child, the parents of the hurt child, the teachers, and the parents of the biter. We also recognize that biting is “developmentally appropriate”. Please do not infer that statement to imply that it is acceptable. The problem is that it is natural for most children under three years of age to bite.

Humans are very oral creatures. Adults express these oral tendencies by acts such as overeating, chewing gum, smoking, cursing, chewing pencils or biting fingernails. These acts are usually done to relieve anxiety or stress. Children who have not acquired verbal skills do not have the ability to tell us when they are anxious, hurting, upset or stressed. As a result, they have a tendency to bite. Children who are in pain due to teething also have a tendency to bite.

Each time a child bites, an incident report is given to the parents of the child that was bitten and the biter’s parents are also informed. We follow privacy acts and will not release the children’s names to other parents involved.

Our staff is trained to give all of their attention to the child who is bitten. TLC and hugs will be given to the child that was bitten while the child who did the biting will be told very sternly “No Biting” and then ignored while the bitten child is given first aid. We recognize that some children bite just to get attention even if it is negative.

If a child is biting consistently for more than two weeks, the parents will be asked for support at home to help end the biting. If the situation doesn’t improve immediately, a parent conference will be scheduled. If the parents of the biter do not support the parent conference, the child will be disenrolled. A plan of action will be formed during the parent conference. With all parties working together the situation should be resolved. As long as the situation is improving, the child will not be disenrolled. If it is determined that the problem is not improving, then the child will be disenrolled.