



Biting Procedure

If a child displays biting behavior:

- Toddlers are often too young to connect a negative consequence (i.e. time out) with the action that preceded it. Instead educators will comfort the child who has been bitten and reinforce that the behaviour is inappropriate with words along the line of 'biting hurts' or 'teeth are for food'. If appropriate the child who bit will be enlisted to help comfort the child who has been bitten.
- For preschoolers who have bitten, educators will encourage the child to help comfort the child who has been bitten and discuss alternative ways of expressing their emotions next time.
- Educators will observe the child over a few days or weeks in an attempt to discover any apparent reasons for the biting behavior or any patterns to the biting behaviour
- Educators will evaluate the environment, program and routine to determine if any changes need to be made to eliminate biting behaviours
- Throughout this process the child's parents/guardians will be consulted and their input requested to determine the current needs and interests of their child
- Confidentiality will be maintained at all times. This includes not sharing the names of children who have bitten or who have been bitten. Children's biting behavior will be discussed with each child's parents/guardians and with the permission of parents/guardians other professionals.

For children that repeatedly bite others:

- Educators will continue to regularly observe the child over a few days or weeks in an attempt to discover any apparent reasons for the biting behavior or any patterns to the biting behavior
- Educators will consistently implement behavior management techniques in an attempt to minimise and eliminate the behavior
- Educators will implement a 'shadowing' technique throughout the day where possible. This requires an educator to be in the immediate vicinity of a child who is known to bite in an attempt to thwart any attempt at biting. During this time the child will be given positive reinforcement for appropriate behavior and strategies to deal with frustration, anger and emotion taught
- Educators will consult regularly with parents to inform them of strategies being used to eliminate the behavior and goals for the child discussed

If a child has been bitten:

- Educators will comfort the child and assess the child's injury. The bitten area will be washed with soap and water to remove saliva and a cold compress will be applied to assist in minimising bruising if necessary.
- If the incident is minor the parent will be given a phone call to let them know of the incident and/or alerted to the incident on pick up. If educators or management feel the incident is significant we will call the parents/guardians of the child who has been bitten and let them know.
- An incident report will be completed for both the child who has been bitten and the child that bit for parents/guardians to read and sign. A copy will be provided upon parent request.

Last reviewed: September 2018

Next Review: September 2020