



Biting Policy

Aim:

- To inform educators, parents/guardians and families about the correct procedure to follow in relation to preventing and treating a bite from a child to another child/person accessing the centre
- At Maryland Care and Early Education we strive to create an environment where children are safe from harm, injury and distress.

Legislative requirements / Sources:

Anne Stonehouse (2008) Biting in Childcare- NCAC fact sheet for families
Gretchen Kinnell (2003) No Biting: Policy and Practice for Toddler Programs
Steffen Saifer (2005) Practical Solutions to Practically Every Problem
Staying Healthy in Child Care (5th Edition)

Implementation:

Preventing biting behaviour:

We recognise that at times some children, for a variety of reasons attempt to bite other children. Reasons for biting can include frustration, fatigue, teething, experimentation and a lack of language skills.

Educators are aware that biting can be a part of development for young children. Most often this occurs between the ages of 12-24 months, however it may also occur between the ages of 3-5 on occasion.

We realize it is impossible to anticipate and prevent all instances of biting by young children, however we attempt to minimize occurrences of biting by ensuring adequate and active supervision at all times.

Educators will ensure when designing and creating experiences that there is ample equipment and space for young children. At this stage of development toddlers are still learning to share and take turns. Providing multiples of toys helps to prevent frustration.

Children will be monitored for signs of tiredness and fatigue and the daily routine altered accordingly. Our room routines are flexible and allow us to meet the needs of individual children within the group. Educators will also be aware of each individual child's signs of frustration and intervene as necessary before a biting instance occurs.

Educators will provide consistent rules and boundaries for children so they are aware of expectations and limits. Children will be involved in a wide range of learning experiences that allow them to learn about emotions and different ways of expression.

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| Review: |
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This policy is the intellectual property of Maryland Care & Early Education Centre and is created with consultation of staff and families attending the service. This policy is available in other languages upon request.

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Review: December 2017