



TLC Day Care Biting Policy

Our program recognizes that biting is, unfortunately, not unexpected when young children 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 children to do, we know that they bite for a variety of reasons. The reasons are not always related to behavioral problems. Our program focuses on effective techniques that address the specific reason for the biting. When biting occurs, we have three main reasons:

- care for and help the child that was bitten
- re-direct or remove the child from the situation
- help the child who bit learn positive behaviors
- work with the child who bit and examine our program to stop 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, the teachers and director meet to discuss how we can avoid biting incidents. We develop a plan of specific strategies, techniques, and timelines to address it. We examine our schedules, set ups and when, or what time the biting happens. Adjustments are made as needed.

We give immediate attention and, if necessary first aid to the child who is 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. If the child is bitten on the top of the hands and the skin is broken, we recommend that they be seen by their health care provider. We want the child to feel comforted and will spend time consoling them to relieve stress and anguish. Parents will be informed by a phone call and/or our boo-boo report.

When children bite, their parents are informed that same day. If biting becomes ongoing, confidential meetings are set up for the parents and director to meet. We will discuss what steps are being made. If the child continues to bite even after the program adjustments are made, parents may be asked to seek professional assistance.

Biting is always documented on our boo-boo report form. It is completed by a teacher and signed by an administrator. One copy is given to the parents, and the other copy is kept 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.

Once a year, our teachers attend a training session on biting. In addition, we have current resources on biting available for staff and parents. We encourage parents to bring their concerns and frustrations directly to the teachers and director.