

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH WEE SCHOOL

BITING POLICY

Biting is a natural developmental stage that many children go through. It is usually a temporary condition that is most common between 13 and 24 months of age. The safety of the children at WEE School is our primary concern. The school's biting policy addresses the actions the staff will take if a biting incident occurs. Our goal is to help identify what is causing the biting and resolve these issues. If the issue cannot be resolved, this policy serves to protect the children and staff that are bitten. If a biting incident occurs, state regulations require that the parent of the child biting and the parent of the child who was bitten be contacted and notified of the Incident Report in writing. Names of the children are not shared with either parent.

WHY CHILDREN MIGHT BITE:

A child may be teething or overly tired and frustrated. He or she might be experimenting, trying to get the attention of their peers or teacher. Toddlers also have poor verbal skills and are impulsive without a lot of self control. Not all children bite out of anger or to hurt another child. Others may bite for defensive reasons if they feel threatened or they could be copying other child or even playful adults and think it is ok. Sometimes biting occurs for no apparent reason.

PLAN OF ACTION:

First, focus and comfort the bitten child. The bite will be assessed, cleansed with soap and water. Ice is placed on the bite to decrease the likelihood of swelling or bruising.

The biting child is calmly removed from the child who was bitten and given a "quiet time." Positive verbal redirection is spoken to the child explaining appropriate behavior for biting, such as "We use our mouths to bite food, not our friends."

PREVENTION:

- Shadow the children who have a biting tendency.
- Plan daily activities that allow children to release frustration, such as outdoor play.
- Have age appropriate toys available that stimulate interest and enough toys to share.
- Help the children put their feelings into words and tell them to use words if they need something. Most importantly, reinforce this with positive praise when he/she acts appropriately.

IF BITING CONTINUES:

- At anytime if the skin is broken due to a bite, parents will be notified in writing, called and asked to pick up the biting child as soon as possible.
- If a child bites twice on any one day, parents will be notified in writing, called and asked to pick up the biting child as soon as possible.
- Once a child has 3 Biting Incident Reports; parents, staff and director will have a conference to discuss a plan of action to assist in common strategies to ensure consistency between the home and school. At this time the child's enrollment will be evaluated to secure the safety of the teacher and other children in the classroom. WEE School reserved the right to withdraw the child from school if the child is adding undue stress on other children or the environment.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in maintaining a safe a nurturing environment for all of our students.