

Methodist Preschool Biting Policy

Biting is unfortunately not unexpected behavior for toddlers. Some children and many toddlers communicate through this behavior. However, biting can be harmful to other children and to staff and is not tolerated at Methodist Preschool. As a preschool, we understand that biting, unfortunately, is a part of an early childhood and day care classroom setting. 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 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. Names and personal information of the children are not shared with either parent.

When Biting Does Occur:

Our staff strongly disapproves of biting and is not tolerated in the classrooms. The staff's job is to keep the children safe and help a child that bites learn different, more appropriate behavior. We do not use techniques to alarm, hurt, or frighten children such as biting back or washing a child's mouth out with soap.

For the child that was bitten:

1. First aid is given to the bite. It is cleaned with soap and water and an ice pack applied if necessary. If the skin is broken, the bite is covered with a bandage.
2. Parents are notified.
3. The "Accident Report" form is filled out documenting the incident.

For the child that bit:

1. The teacher will firmly tell the child "NO! DO NOT BITE!"
2. The child will be placed in time out for no longer than the child's age (one year old, one minute).
3. The parents are notified.
4. The "Parent Contact Form" is filled out documenting the incident.

When biting becomes excessive:

1. If a child inflicts a bite in which the skin of another child or staff member is broken or bruised or the bite leaves a significant mark, a conference will be held with the parents to discuss the child's behavior and how the behavior may be modified. The child will be shadowed to help prevent any further biting incidents. Additionally, the child will be observed by the classroom staff to determine what is causing the child to bite (teething, communication, frustration, etc.) The administrative staff may also observe the child if the classroom staff is unable to determine the cause.
2. If the child inflicts a second bite in which the skin of another child or staff member is broken or bruised or the bite leaves a significant mark, the child will be suspended for 2 business days.
3. If a child once again inflicts a bite in which the skin of another child or staff member is broken or bruised or the bite leaves a significant mark, the parents will be asked to make other day care arrangements.

If a child, who has been through steps 1 and/or 2, goes 3 weeks (15 business days) without biting, we will go back to step one.

If a child bites twice in a 4 hour period, the child will be required to be picked up from preschool immediately.

Our primary concern is for the safety of the children in our care. Methodist Preschool enforces this biting policy for their protection.