

Biting Policy & Guidelines

Here at The Little Red Schoolhouse we recognize that biting can be an issue among young children. We do not feel like biting is the right, or safe thing for a child to do; however, we believe that biting occurs for a variety of different reasons. We recognize and understand how upsetting biting is for both the parent(s) of the biter and the parent(s) of the bitten; as it is upsetting to our staff as well. We are committed to carrying out our goal of making this a safe and successful learning environment for all of our children, staff and parents. With this in mind, we have created a biting policy that reads as follows:

First Signs of Biting:

- We will always put children's safety first and provide appropriate first aid as well as comfort and advice to any child who is bitten.
- Our teachers express strong disapproval to biting and will use a stern voice in letting the child know (ex: "NO", "BITING IS NOT OKAY"). They will proceed by removing the child from the situation and placing them in a possible time-out.
- We NEVER use any response/punishment that would be harmful to the child. This would result in immediate dismissal of staff.
- The incident will be recorded on our injury log (posted in every classroom), as to the date in which it happened, how the teachers took care of the situation, where the bite occurred, and if the parent(s) were notified.
- We will inform the both parties' parent(s) privately at the end of the day, making sure that the biters name remains confidential (to allow time for the teachers and parent(s) to work with the child without labeling). If the bite should break the skin we will notify the parent(s) of both parties at the time of the bite.

When Biting Becomes Ongoing:

- Because biting results from all different reasons, this is the part of the policy that will differ from child to child.
- We will continue to use the above steps.
- We will also ask that the parent(s) come in for a conference with the room teacher and program director. We will then develop an immediate plan of action that is agreed to by the parent(s), staff and directors.
- The plan will include specific strategies aimed for the child, techniques, as well as a timeline to address it.
- The plan will be signed by parent(s), teacher and directors.

When the Immediate Plan is Unsuccessful:



- After the timeline (given in the immediate plan) passes, a more detailed/intense plan will take effect.
- The teachers and program director will call for another meeting with the parent(s) to discuss further action.
- The parent(s) will be asked to possibly drop some days, go down to half days or possibly taking time off from the program.
- All of the above options will be put on a timeline again and the teachers and directors will work as hard as possible to cooperate with the parent(s). Keep in mind, we love ALL our children, but we must put the childrens' safety first.
- This plan will also be asked to be agreed to and signed by the parent(s), teacher, and directors.

