



NGLC Biting Policy

We want to insure that every child is safe while in our care. Our center provides an environment that encourages and promotes cooperative interaction, respect and love for others, and non-aggressive problem solving between the children. Biting is a normal stage of development for young children who are teething and are still developing their language skills. It is usually temporary condition that is most common between thirteen and twenty-four months of age.

Biting policy for children under the age of 2 years

If a child under two has a chronic biting problem, the Administration and parents will meet on an as needed basis. The purpose will be to communicate and work together to find the best solution to help the child overcome the biting phase.

Children bite for a variety of reasons: simple sensory exploration, a lack of language, teething, seeking to be noticed, or intense desire for a toy. Repeated biting becomes a pattern of learned behavior that is often hard to extinguish because it does achieve results: the desired toy, excitement or attention. Knowing that the effect of their biting will hurt another person is not yet a part of a child of this ages' mindset, so the "cause-effect" relationship is not internalized.

We understand that biting is very scary, frustrating and stressful for children, parents, and teachers. But, it is also not something to blame on children, parents or teachers as there are no quick or easy solutions to it. Teachers plan activities and supervise carefully in order for biting not to happen. There are times, however, when everyone cannot be within immediate reach to prevent a bite.

Biting Policy for children over 2 years

Step 1: The child bit for the *first* time. The teacher will remove the biter and comfort the victim. The teacher will use a stern voice to let the biter know that this is *not ok*. The teacher will assess the reason why biting occurred and follow necessary steps to prevent any future incidents. Both parents will be notified. If biting happens a second time, the teachers will follow step one again.

Step 2: The child bit for the *third* time. The teacher will follow step one and inform administration about this being the third time this has happened. Parents, teacher and administration will have a conference to assess possible reasons why the child may be biting. A plan will be put in place addressing actions that will be followed at school and at home to help the child and to avoid future incidents. As long as improvement is being documented, the child will remain in the class.