



## Biting Policy

Preschool of the Arts recognizes that biting is a common behavior that is exhibited by young children as part of normal child development. We will address the behavior in a positive and appropriate manner. Children bite for reasons relating to their developmental stage, expression of their feelings, or their environment, so our response to this will include observation, understanding, teaching and environmental changes.

When a biting incident occurs, staff will immediately move the biter away from the victim. The staff's response to the biter will be a message of disapproval with words such as, "Biting Hurts!" or, "No Biting!"

The victim will be comforted, the wound examined, and first aid given to the area. If the skin is not broken, the bite area will be washed with soap and water, and an ice pack will be applied. If skin is broken, pressure will be applied to stop bleeding, the wound will be washed with soap and water, and an ice pack will be applied. When skin is broken, the parents of the victim will be called immediately, as they may choose to seek medical attention. The staff involved will complete an incident report that will be signed by the victim's parent/guardian as well as the biter's parent/guardian and given to the director for each child's file.

The director will review the incident reports and work with the staff to determine action that we can take to prevent future incidents of biting. Actions may include shadowing the biter, change in classroom environment, and/or teaching the biter more appropriate ways of expressing feelings.

Ongoing biting behavior will be handled as any other challenging behavior outlined in our discipline policy. All staff will maintain confidentiality of the children involved in biting incidents.

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