

BITING POLICY

Biting is a behavior that is often unexpected and one that can harm and frighten others. Biting is a natural developmental stage that many children go through. Most times it is a temporary behavior and one that is seen between the ages of 11 and 24 months old. Toddler's bite others for many different reasons. A child might be teething, feel tired, angry, frustrated, or even bite when they are overly happy and excited. Biting may also be a way for a child to get attention from other adults or friends. Toddlers do not have strong verbal skills, are impulsive and lack strong self-control and it is important to remember that they are developing these abilities at their own pace. Biting can also occur for no apparent reason, happen quickly and can be shocking to observe. Our primary concern at Learning Wagon Preschool is the safety and health of the children and our staff. We take all biting situations seriously and use our knowledge as educators to handle these tough situations in positive, constructive and meaningful ways to stop them from occurring.

When it comes to a biting incident, our goal is to help identify what is causing the biting and resolve this issue immediately. The school will encourage the children to "use their words" if they become angry or frustrated. **The staff members will maintain a close and constant supervision of the children at all times.**

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 of the children are not shared with either parent. **For every bite incident, two actions will occur**

- 1. Parents will be contacted with a phone call.**
- 2. An accident report will be completed.**

If the biting becomes excessive and the school's techniques have been exhausted, Learning Wagon Preschool has the right to discharge the student. Please note, many measures will be taken prior to help the student prior to it getting to this point. These measures are outlined as follows:

Procedure Employees will follow if Biting Occurs:

We do not use techniques to alarm, hurt, or frighten children. The staff's job is to keep the children safe and help a child that bites learn different, more appropriate behavior.

For the child that was bitten:

1. First aid is given to the bite. It is cleaned with **soap and water**. If the skin is broken, the bite is covered with a bandage.
2. Parents are notified with a phone call or Daily Connect. If a parent cannot be reached, an email will be sent, and an additional phone call will occur until the parents are reached directly.
3. An accident report form is filled out documenting the incident for both children involved.
4. Parents/guardians will sign the form at pickup
5. This form is stored in the child's file. Parents/Guardians can receive a copy of the form if asked.

For the child that bit:

1. The teacher will firmly tell the child “NO! DO NOT BITE!”
2. The child will be brought to an area of the classroom where they can talk with the teacher.
3. Parents are notified with a phone call. If a parent cannot be reached, an email will be sent, and an additional phone call will occur until the parents are reached directly.
4. An accident report form is filled out documenting the incident for both children involved.
5. Parents/guardians will sign the form at pickup
6. This form is stored in the child’s file. Parents/Guardians can receive a copy of the form if asked.

Procedure if Biting Continues:

1. The child will be shadowed to help prevent any biting incidents. This includes the teacher staying close by the child at all times and holding the child’s hand in moments where there is free play, outside time, high energy activities, or times where the child bite in the past.
2. The child will be observed by the classroom staff to determine what is causing the child to bite (teething, communication, frustration, etc.)
3. The director and administrative staff will also observe the child if the classroom staff is unable to determine the cause.
4. The child will be given positive attention and approval for positive behavior.
5. The teachers will also support the learning of appropriate behaviors with books, short acceptable educational video clips, puppet shows, and modeling interactive games and activities.

Procedure if biting becomes excessive:

1. If a child inflicts 3 bites in a one-week period, a conference will be held with the parents to discuss the child’s behavior and how the behavior may be modified.
2. An action plan will be created by administration, the teachers and the parents in which will be followed immediately in the classroom. This action plan can consist of shadowing and mirror techniques, half day exposure to school, or an agreed upon disciplinary approach.
3. At the end of the one-week action plan, if the child has 2 incidents of biting, suspension or discharge from the program will be decided by the administrator if they feel the behavior is disrupting the classroom, cannot be controlled and harming others.
4. Recommendations for therapy, alternative schooling and other ideas will be provided to the parents.

Please note, Learning Wagon Preschool will do it’s best to integrate and teach appropriate behavior choices for children who bite or harm others, but in some situations, the environment may not be the best for this child, and the teachers may have exhausted all resources.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE, _____ THE PARENTS OF

_____,

ACKNOWLEDGE AND COMPLY WITH LEARNING WAGON
PRESCHOOL'S BITING POLICY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE
SCHOOL HAS A RIGHT TO DISCHARGE ANY STUDENT AT
ANY TIME IF THERE IS A HEALTH OF SAFETY SITUATION, OR
THE SCHOOL FEELS THEY ARE UNABLE TO MEET THE NEEDS
OF THE CHILD.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date