

McCormick Montessori Child Care Center
Biting Policy

SUBJECT: Biting

PURPOSE: To Protect the children at the Center and to encourage children to behave in a socially acceptable manner.

POLICY: Staff and Parents shall follow the following guidelines when a bite occurs.

PROCEDURES:

1. Staff recognizes that at times some children, for a variety of reasons, attempt to bite other children. Some reasons for biting are as follows:

Infants	Experimental, sensory pleasure, teething
Toddlers	Frustration, fatigue, attention seeking, confined spaces, inability to communicate
Preschoolers	Aggression, deliberate
2. Staff will use age appropriate behavior strategies for children who are biting. Staff will attempt to keep frustration levels of children low by providing plenty of stimulation to engage children's interests, having smaller groups of children (e.g. inside group/outdoor group), and using distraction techniques to minimize incidents.
3. Staff and Parents should recognize that a human bite, which breaks the skin, brings great risk of infection (e.g. Tetanus, Hepatitis B, etc...) to the victim. Families are required to keep their children's immunization up to date.
4. When a bite does occur, staff will check for broken skin. All bites, whether the skin is broken or unbroken, will be washed with soap and water and be treated with a topical disinfectant. A cold compress will be applied to the bitten area. Staff will inform the family as soon as possible when a bite occurs. At that time, the family may decide upon follow up medical attention. If the biter is known to be an Infections Disease carrier, or can be seen to have facial herpes, the Director will convey this information to the Family.
5. A record of all biting incidents will be kept. This is especially useful in determining any patterns of biting behavior and in anticipating incidents and preventing them.
6. When a child bites three times on a given day, the child's parents will be called and the child must be picked up from the Center **immediately**. This is to prevent further incidences and to calm the biter.
7. Staff will develop a behavior management program for "repeat offenders" in conjunction with parents, the Director, or other Health Care Professionals.
8. If, at any time, child's biting behavior becomes especially excessive or hazardous to the children or staff, the Director will expel the child from the Child Care Center in accordance with the "Discharge Policy".