

## **CHARLIE BROWN COMMUNITY DAY CARE CENTER POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

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Subject: Biting Policy

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Original Date of Policy: 01-17-89

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It is belief that children will on occasion experience biting or be bitten. The biting policy addresses the procedures followed when a biting incident occurs.

Staff will receive information on biting during orientation. Parents will be offered information on biting if their child is involved in a biting incident.

An accident report is given to parents of both the biter and the child bitten. A copy will be put in the child's file that did the biting as well as in the file of the child who was bitten. The name of the child bitten will be erased on the biter's copy. The parent's of the biter will also be given an incident report explaining the biting episode.

When there is blood exposure with broken skin from a bite, the parents of the child who was bitten will be called. Parents may choose to seek medical attention. The parents of the biter will be called because blood may be in the biter's mouth. Parents may choose to seek medical attention.

When there is blood exposure with broken skin from a bite, the wound will be immediately cleansed with soap and water. An ice pack will be used. The child who bit may ask to rinse their mouth to remove any blood. The staff will speak to the biter in a firm, yet appropriate, not-intimidating voice, "No biting!" The staff must talk to the child at his/her level and make eye contact. This interaction becomes a teaching moment for the biter. The child who is bitten will be comforted and given extra attention. The biter will be shadowed by the staff in an attempt to prevent further incidents. If possible, the child may be moved into a different group.

Behavior modification techniques will be implemented following the Child Guidance Policy in an attempt to prevent further incidents. Biting can be perceived as an anti-social behavior and an attention seeking behavior, especially for older children. For younger children, biting is a form of communication. Staff interaction during biting incidents for younger children is an opportunity to develop communication skills.

To address the issue of a child who is biting other children or staff, the child's parents, the staff, the On-site Director, and the Executive Director will cooperatively seek solutions to the problem for repeated biting. A tracking of biting incidents will be documented. There will be a tracking document for the child who is the biter to address behavior modifications and preventions.

During a confidential conference, the child's parents will be asked to seek professional advice after the third incident of repeated behavior. A written documentation of behavior modification will be required and be put into practice for two weeks. If the modification is not effective, Charlie Brown reserves the right to discontinue child care services.

If a staff person is severely bitten, the wound will be immediately cleansed with soap and water. If any blood is visible on the staff person, medical treatment will be requested. A refusal to seek medical attention may be signed by the staff person and kept in the personnel file.

Confidentiality will be adhered to in all incidents.