

2026-2027 SLKF Little Crusader Biting Policy

A child biting other children is one of group childcare's most common and challenging behaviors. It can occur without warning, it is difficult to defend against, and it provokes strong emotional responses in the biter, the victim, the parents, and the caregivers involved.

For many toddlers, the biting stage is just a passing problem. They try it out to get what they want from other children. They are learning what is socially acceptable and what is not.

For some children, biting is a persistent and chronic problem. They may bite for various reasons, such as teething, frustration, inadequate language skills, stress or change in the environment, feeling threatened, or feeling a sense of power.

After consulting with childcare experts and manuals, we have developed the following plan to be used when biting occurs in the classrooms.

For the biter:

1. The child is immediately removed from the situation using words such as "biting is not okay- it hurts." Avoiding any response that reinforces the biting or calls attention to the biter. All caring attention is focused on the bitten child.
2. After talking to the child and sitting away from the other children, the child will be redirected to another activity.
3. An accident report will be written digitally for both the biter and the child who was bitten. Parents will be notified via a digital report through ProCare and/or by phone.

***If the child bites two times in any one day, the child will be sent home for the remainder of the day.**

***If the skin is broken due to a bite at any time, the child will be sent home immediately.**

*If the biting continues and is severe, a meeting will occur with the Principal and Director to discuss further actions. If parents are responsive to suggestions (such as purchasing a Lego teething necklace, completing a hearing test, speech evaluation, or behavioral assessment), we will continue working with the child and family. Please be aware that the safety of the children is always a top priority for the Principal, Director, and teachers at SLKF. We will try to help a biter resolve the issues causing the biting. Specific details of any plan and treatments cannot be discussed with other parents/families.

If a biter continues to bite after several plans have been implemented to prevent biting, it is at the Principal and Director's discretion to ask the child to leave the Nursery.

For the victim:

1. The child is separated from the biter.
2. The child is comforted, and first aid is administered. Bites that break the skin will be cleaned with antibacterial soap and water only, per Office of Public Health policies.
3. An accident report will be written, and the victim's parents will be notified in writing. (Notified by phone if the skin is broken)

Some things the teachers do to minimize biting in the childcare setting are:

- o Closely watch the biter to redirect if necessary. Teachers can't shadow an individual student based on our class ratios.
- o Use word phrases such as "Biting hurts" and "We use our teeth for food."
- o Begin observation logs for repeated biters to identify triggers for the biting. Once triggers have been identified, teachers may change the schedule, classroom, groups, etc.
- o Provide frozen or plastic teething rings for those who need something to chew on.
- o Provide supportive information to parents worried about their child's biting and suggest how to stop it.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____