

BITING POLICY

Explanations, policies and procedures regarding biting at St. Louis King of France

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

For many toddlers, the biting stage is just a passing problem. They try it out as a way 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 a variety of reasons such as: teething, frustration, inadequate language skills, stress or change in the environment, feeling threatened, or to feel 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. 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 for both the biter and the child who was bitten. Parents will be notified via a written report and/or by phone.

***If the child bites 2 times in any one day then the child will be sent home for the remainder of the day.**

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

* If the biting continues and is severe, a meeting with the Principal and Director will take place to discuss further actions. If parents are responsive to suggestions (such as getting a hearing test completed, speech evaluation, or behavioral assessment) we will continue to work 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 put forth every effort to help a biter resolve the issues causing the biting. Specific details of any plan and/or treatments cannot and will not be discussed with any other parents/families.

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

For the victim:

1. Child is separated from the biter.
2. Child is comforted and first aid is administered. Bites that break the skin will be cleaned with antibacterial soap and water only, as per Office of Public Health policies.
3. An accident report will be written and the parents of the victim 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.
- o Provide lots of language such as “Biting hurts” and “We use our teeth for food”.
- o Begin observation logs for repeated biters in order to identify triggers for the biting. Once triggers have been identified teachers may make changes to 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 who are worried about their child biting and offer suggestions of how to stop the biting habit.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____