Biting Policy

Biting is fairly common amongst young children. Biting can occur for different reasons; a common reason is when a child does not feel in control of their feelings. Current research also suggests that biting can occur as a means of communication or being understood. It is most important that we support children through such times with care and understanding. Whilst biting is considered to be developmental, it can be a serious incident that requires careful and sensitive management.

Management Strategies:

When a bite occurs

- Staff will provide appropriate First aid to the child bitten. If the skin is broken the child who did the biting will have their mouth washed with water and they will be encouraged to spit the water out. This is to get rid of any blood or skin from the other child.
- Staff will wash the bitten child’s wound with water and an ice pack will be applied.
- If a severe bite has occurred, the parents/guardians of all children involved will be notified immediately.
- If a child is observed continually biting other children, staff at The Peter Toms Early Learning Centre will discuss the behaviour and an action plan will be implemented immediately. Parents/guardians will be notified and involved in the development of strategies.
- Parents of all children involved will be notified on their departure.
- Accident and Incident forms will be completed by staff and discussed with the parents/guardians of the child involved.

Programming considerations

- Implementation of programs which foster communication and emotional expression development.
- Programs which encourage pro-social behaviours.
- All staff to model appropriate communication and social interactions.
- Encouraging children to discuss their feelings and be confident within their play environments.
- Staff will always be confidential and sensitive to the feelings of the families and children involved in such cases. We will not reveal any information except to the parents/guardians of the child involved.
- Children will not be named or identifiable to the parents/guardians – confidential management. We at The Peter Toms Early Learning Centre recognise that biting can be a stressful occurrence, and it is strongly encouraged that parents don’t actively seek out the name/identity of a child who is involved in such an incident.
Source
Relevant policy created: 1st December 2008