



## **BITING POLICY**

*Words of Wisdom – Try to remember that all young children are potential biters!*

Biting is often very frightening for the child who is bitten. It can also be very frightening for the child who bites. We recognize that the majority of children will learn not to bite in time. Therefore, it is important for us to be very clear, firm and calm when a child does bite and to offer praise and warmth when they don't.

If an incident of biting does occur, the parents of both children will be informed of the event. We also ask that you make us aware of any incidents of biting that have occurred outside of our setting as this will enable us to be more prepared and vigilant. Also, provide any helpful information that occurred during an outside incident.

A child biting another child is one of the most common and most difficult behaviors in a group setting such as childcare. It can occur without warning, is difficult to defend against, and provokes strong emotional responses in the biter, the victim, the parents, and the caregivers.

For many infants and toddlers, the biting stage is just a passing problem. Children in this age group are in the process of learning what is socially acceptable and what is not. However, when they experience the disapproval of this behavior, they will eventually learn other ways of expressing difficult feelings.

We will encourage the children to "use their words" when they become angry or frustrated, whenever possible.

### **1. Reasons for Biting:**

- Teething
- Frustration
- Inadequate language skills
- Stress or Tiredness
- Change in the environment
- Feeling threatened
- To feel a sense of power

### **2. When an Incident Occurs:**

*For the child who bites:*

- The child is immediately removed with no emotion, using words such as "biting is not okay, it hurts."
- The child is talked to on a level that they can understand. For example, "I can see that you want that truck and/or are frustrated, but I can't let you hurt your friend."



- “We don’t put our teeth on people.” Or “That hurts Johnny when you bite him, he is sad.”
- Redirect the child to another form of play.
- Write an accident report and notify the child’s parents.

*For the child who’s bitten:*

- Separate the victim from the biter.
- Comfort the child.
- Administer first aid if needed.
- Write an accident report and notify parents of the victim (in writing).

*For both children:*

- **Confidentiality of all children involved will be maintained.** It is unnecessary to know the children’s identity, however if parents find out which children were involved; we ask that they do not complain directly to the other parents.

### **3. If Biting Continues:**

- The provider will hold a conference with the parents (of both children, if necessary) for strategy planning, advise exchange, and support.
- Schedule follow-up meetings or telephone conversations as needed.
- The provider will observe and chart every occurrence, including attempted bites, and indicate location, time, participants, behaviors, and circumstances.
- Let all parents know that there is a problem and the procedures that will be followed to deal with it.
- The safety and well-being of all children is very important and if necessary, a chronic biter may be asked to seek alternative care. This will be a ‘last resort’ action. Since this is a normal part of development, we will seek every possible resolution.

*“Shadow” children who indicate a tendency to bite:*

- Head off biting situations before they occur.
- Teach non-biting responses to situations and reinforce appropriate behavior, such as “using their words.” For example, “No” “Mine” or “Walk away!”
- Adapt the program to better fit the individual child’s needs.

*“Shadow” children who have a tendency to be bitten:*

- Head off biting situations.
- Teach responses to potential biting situations: “No” or “Don’t hurt me!”

### **4. Consequences:**



**STEP 1** If a child inflicts 2 bites in a one-week period in which the skin of another child or staff member is broken or bruised or the bite leaves a significant mark, a conference will be held with the parents to discuss the child's behavior and how the behavior may be modified.

**STEP 2** If the child again inflicts 2 bites in a one-week period in which the skin of another child or staff member is broken or bruised or the bite leaves a significant mark, the child will be asked to take a one week break from school.

**STEP 3** If the child again inflicts 2 bites in a one-week period in which the skin of another child or staff member is broken or bruised or the bite leaves a significant mark, the parents will be asked to make other day care arrangements.

**STEP 4** If a child, who has been through step 1 and 2 and then goes 3 weeks without biting, we will go back to step one if the child bites/pushes again.

**STEP 5** If a child bites twice in a 1-hour period, the child will be required to be picked up from daycare for the remainder of the day.

### **BITING POLICY**

I/We have read, understand, and agree to the biting policy for Rise and Shine Care Centers & Family Services Agency.

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_