



Biting Policy

Even though biting is a perfectly normal stage of development during childhood, it is required by the Department of Social Services Child Care Licensing Division that St. Mark Child Development Center maintain a safe and healthy environment for all children in care.

Biting occurs for many reasons whether it is teething, a lack of language, frustration, attention, being overly tired or simply just trying to get a reaction from someone.

St. Mark Child Development Center policy on biting is as follows:

- If your child bites 2 times (as long as the skin on the other person is not broken) on any one day then your child will be sent home for the remainder of that day.
- If at any time the skin is broken due to a bite then the child will be asked to go home immediately.
- If the biting continues and is severe to where it becomes necessary to send the child home on a daily basis or is adding undue stress on the children or the environment it may become necessary to terminate child care arrangements. This is not something that St. Mark Child Development Center likes to do and please know that this would be a last resort.

Some things that St. Mark Child Development does to minimize biting in the child care setting are:

- Shadow the biter so that he or she is always near the provider or within arms reach.
- Provide lots of language such as “Biting hurts” and “We use our teeth for food”.
- Provide frozen teething rings for those who need something to chew on.
- Provide supportive information to parents who are worried about their child biting and offer suggestion of how to stop the biting habit.

Parent signature _____

Date _____

Director's Signature _____

Date _____