

3/2/2022

Dear Parents,

We are having some struggles with some of our little ones biting. This is a serious health and safety issue. Recognizing that this cannot continue we have done a few things: We have sent home educational material from reputable sources to help parents engage with us in stopping their child from biting, we have brought in resources to help and to train our staff on how to prevent biting, and we are using strategies to teach these children not to bite. Most often these children are between 1 and 3 years old and lack the ability to communicate their needs and wants. We want to teach them the appropriate way to handle their big feelings in a way that does not result in someone being hurt. Teaching takes time. Please be patient and understand that we understand and share your frustration, but we are working on it. Also, while we do acknowledge that this can be a time consuming process, we do need to ensure the safety of the other children and the staff in the classroom. To accomplish this, we are adding a policy to our parent handbook. Please see the attached Addendum.

We are very sorry to the children and families who have been impacted by this situation and Thank you for your patience and feedback as we go through this process.

Yours in Christian and Family Service,

Little Learners Staff and Preschool Committee

Addendum

While we recognize that Biting is a normal behavior for children between 12-30 months old, it is a health and safety issue for the other students and staff. We simply cannot allow biting to continue.

If a child bites 3 times in one week, the child will be sent home for the remainder of the week. If a child is sent home due to behavior issues, tuition is still due to be paid.

If a child is sent home 3 times for biting, they will not be allowed to return to Little Learners for care until age 3 if a spot is available.

Children who are bitten will receive an 'ouch report' on the day of the injury.

Documentation will also be kept in the form of a bite tracker for children who bite or attempt to bite. This document will be available to the parent.

Children above the age of 3 will be sent home after 2 bites and dismissed from care after being sent home twice. Tuition is still to be paid in the instances when a child is sent home for behavioral reasons.

The only exceptions for this addendum is in the case of a child with documented special needs and with instructions/guidelines from a physician on how best to work with this child.