

INCIDENT REPORT – What’s Really Happening Here?

Question	1st Incident	2nd Incident	3rd Incident
What was the incident? (Biting, Hitting, Pushing, etc.)			
When did the incident occur?			
Who was involved?			
Where did it happen?			
What happened before the incident?			
What happened after the incident?			
How was the situation handled?			
Why do you think this behavior might be occurring?			

Parent Conference Schedule on: _____ at _____

Action Plan: _____

Comments:

Parent's signatures: _____ Date _____

Provider/Teacher signature: _____ Date _____

How to Handle Biting Situations – Tips for Adults Caring for Children

CAUSE	EXPLANATION and HOW TO HANDLE
Exploration	Infants learn by touching, smelling, hearing and tasting. Tasting or “mouthing” things is something that all children do. Infants this age do not always understand the difference between gnawing on a toy and biting someone. Playing “biting” games should be avoided.
Teething	Around 4 to 7 months old swelling gums can be tender and cause discomfort. Provide cold teething toys or chewy foods such as frozen bagels, teething biscuits or bananas.
Cause and Effect	Around 12 months of age, infants become interested in finding out what happens when they do something. When they drop a toy; it falls. When they bite someone; they scream. Remain calm, but firmly say, “No biting” .
Attention	Older toddlers may sometimes bite to get attention. Biting is a quick way to become the center of attention – even if it is negative attention. Remain calm. Focus most of your attention on the child who was bitten.
Imitation	Older toddlers love to imitate others and may try biting after seeing another child bite. If an adult bites a child back in punishment, it generally does not stop the biting, but teaches the child that aggressive behavior is okay. Never bite a child back. Biting is inappropriate behavior in any case.
Independence	“Me” , “Mine” , and “Me do it” quickly become a toddler’ s favorite words. Doing things independently, making choices, and needing control over situations are part of growing up. Biting is a powerful way to control others. Provide opportunities to make age-appropriate choices that have some control (the pretzel or the cracker? ; the yellow ball or the blue ball?). Notice and give positive attention as new help skills and independence develop.
Motor Development	As toddlers bodies begin to develop they try new muscles. Provide a variety of play materials (hard/soft, rough/smooth, heavy/light). Plan for plenty of active play, both indoors and outside.

<p>Learning to Play and to Interact with Others</p>	<p>Older toddlers are learning new social skills each day. Try to guide behavior if it seem rough. For example, take the child by the hand and say, "Be gentle. He likes it when you touch him nicely." Prevent conflicts by offering more than one of any especially popular toy and creating open play space. Reinforce proper social behavior such as taking turns with toys, patting a crying child and using good manners.</p>
<p>Frustration</p>	<p>Between the ages of 1 and 3, most children experience frustration because there is a developmental discrepancy between feelings and the child' s ability to express himself verbally. Try to "read" the child to understand what needs or desires he is trying to meet by biting. Help the child verbalize his desires. "You feel angry when he takes your truck?" "You want her to pay more attention to you?" Be patient. Older toddlers can learn a 3 step plan: First, try using words. Second, if words don' t work, walk away. Third, if walking away doesn' t work, walk away and seek adult assistance.</p>
<p>Stress</p>	<p>Children can be threatened by new or changing situations such as a mother returning to work, a new baby, parents separating, boredom or lack of routine. Provide some special nurturing and be as warm and reassuring as possible, adding some stability and comfort to the child' s life. Help the child talk about feelings even when he or she says things like, "I hate my new baby."</p>