

Biting Policy for the Early Years Program

Purpose:

At CISB, our Early Years program aims to create a consistent and supportive approach to managing biting incidents. Biting can be a common behavior among young children as they explore social, emotional, and communication skills. This policy is designed to handle biting calmly, promptly, and effectively while ensuring the safety and well-being of all children. We strive to maintain a nurturing and respectful learning environment in line with our international values and standards.

1. Understanding Why Children Bite

Children may bite for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to:

- Teething or oral sensory needs.
- Exploration of cause-and-effect relationships.
- Communicating needs or emotions, especially when verbal skills are still developing.
- Feelings of frustration, overwhelm or perceived threat.
- Seeking attention or expressing excitement.

Understanding the underlying reasons for biting helps us respond appropriately and offer the right support.

2. Procedures for Addressing Biting Incident

Immediate Response

- Comfort and assess the child who was bitten, providing first aid if necessary.
- Calmly remove the child who bit from the situation. Simple language will be used to explain that biting is not acceptable (e.g., "Biting hurts, we don't bite our friends").
- Document each incident using the Incident Report Form, noting details like the date, time, context, and what happened before, during, and after the incident.

Communication with Families:

- Parents/guardians of both children involved will be notified promptly.
- Confidentiality will be maintained; the names of the other child/children involved will not be disclosed.
- Parents/guardians of the child who was bitten will be informed about how the situation was handled and any steps taken to prevent future incidents.
- Parents/guardians of the child who bit will be contacted to discuss strategies to support the child in managing emotions and behaviors.

Ongoing Support:

- Teachers will monitor any patterns related to biting incidents, such as timing, triggers, or social interactions.
- The child who bit will receive guidance in developing positive communication, social, and emotional skills, such as using words to express needs or practicing self-regulation.
- If biting continues, a meeting with parents/guardians, teachers, and the Learning Support team will be scheduled to create a personalized action plan.

3. Prevention Strategies

To reduce the likelihood of biting, CISB will:

- Create a calm and engaging learning environment with developmentally appropriate activities.
- Maintain predictable routines to help children feel secure.
- Provide opportunities for sensory exploration (e.g., teething toys, sensory bins) to meet oral needs.
- Foster social-emotional development, focusing on sharing, turn-taking, and using language to express emotions.
- Ensure close supervision, especially during high-energy activities or transitions.
- Use positive reinforcement to encourage appropriate social behavior.

4. Recording and Monitoring

Documentation:

- All biting incidents will be recorded using the Incident Report Form.
- The Early Years Coordinator will regularly review reports to identify any trends or adjust strategies as needed.

Monitoring:

- For repeated incidents, an observation log will be maintained to track behavior patterns.
- Parent-teacher meetings will include a review of the strategies in place and any necessary adjustments to better support the child.

5. Collaborative Approach with Families

Partnership with Families:

- Families are encouraged to share observations and concerns regarding biting behavior at home.
- Resources or referrals to specialists may be offered if additional support is necessary (e.g., speech therapists, child psychologists).

- School staff will work collaboratively with families to ensure consistency between home and school, reinforcing positive behavior strategies.

6. Policy Review and Adjustment

This policy will be reviewed annually or as needed to ensure it aligns with best practices in early childhood education and the unique needs of our international community. Changes will be made to reflect new insights, research, or available resources for managing biting behavior.

7. Confidentiality

All biting incidents and related discussions with parents/guardians will be handled with strict confidentiality. The identities of the children involved will only be shared with the respective parents/guardians and relevant staff members managing the situation.

Commitment:

At CISB, we are dedicated to fostering a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment that supports the healthy development of every child. We recognize that biting is a phase many children go through, and our focus is on guiding them through this phase with empathy, appropriate interventions, and consistent support.

Contact Information:

For questions or concerns regarding this policy, please reach out to the Early Years Coordinator or Principal.