

GRACE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

BITING POLICY

“Biting is a difficult and uncomfortable issue for parents to deal with. If your child is the victim, you may feel angry and outraged. If your child is the biter, you may feel embarrassed and frustrated.”¹ Grace Early Childhood Center has put this Biting Policy in place to keep our children safe and protect them from getting bitten. We want to support our children in their developmental journey in which, for a short time period, biting is to be expected.

When a child bites for the first time:

Almost all children from infants to toddlers will sooner or later try to bite. Even though we strictly follow State Laws, complying with student-teacher ratios, biting happens. Our teachers are trained to first take care of the child that was bitten, and then to immediately call the parents of both children and inform them about the incident. The teacher then writes an incident report which will be handed in to our director. The incident report alerts us to take action. From that incident on, the classroom teachers must shadow, hence, stay at arm’s length of the child that bit, at all times. All teachers have received special training and know about the seriousness of biting. In addition, all faculty at Grace are able to apply various strategies to redirect children that are in the developmental stage of biting.

When a child bites for the second time:

Procedure one is reinforced and the administration and parents meet to discuss strategies to avoid biting so they can be applied at home as well. As a team, the school and parents will work together to help the child to move on from the stage of biting. The teacher that shadows the child will have to write the incident report with an in-depth description of the triggers that led to biting.

When a child bites for the third time:

Procedure one and two are followed as outlined. However, at this time, we will have to ask the parents for help by either physically staying with their child for periods of time, or financially supporting the cost of keeping an additional trained person with the child at all times. We will not turn away any family that is working with us as part of the team to overcome this issue. Our goal is to protect all children and help the biting child work through this difficult developmental stage.

¹ Iowa State University, Iowa, *Understanding Children Biting*, PM 1529a, Revised April 2001