Little Turtle Biting Policy

At Little Turtle, the safety and well-being of all children is our top priority. We understand that biting can sometimes occur in young children, particularly as they are learning to communicate, express their emotions, and interact with others.

Although biting can be a common behavior in early childhood, it is not an acceptable behavior and must be addressed consistently to ensure the safety of all children.

Our Response to Biting

If a child bites another child while at school, the following steps will be taken:

1. **First Bite:** The child will be spoken to in an age-appropriate manner and redirected by the teacher. Staff will address the behavior and help the child understand that biting hurts others and is not acceptable, while giving them words to use instead.
2. **Second Bite:** The child's parent or guardian will be contacted by phone and informed of the incident.
3. **Third Bite:** The child's parent or guardian will be contacted and asked to pick up their child from school for the remainder of the day.

Staff Prevention and Intervention

Teachers and staff will make every effort to recognize situations that may lead to biting and intervene as quickly as possible to prevent it from occurring. Staff will work to identify possible triggers, redirect children, provide appropriate support, and help children develop positive ways to communicate their needs and feelings.

Repeated or Excessive Biting

Biting incidents will be handled individually, taking into consideration the circumstances, frequency, and severity of the behavior. Repeated biting may require a meeting with parents to discuss additional strategies and determine the best steps to support the child.

If biting becomes excessive or continues to pose a safety concern for other children, Little Turtle reserves the right to require the child to take a temporary break from attending school for a period of time, potentially a few weeks. This time will allow the family and school to work together on strategies to address the behavior before the child returns to the classroom.

Our goal is to provide a safe, nurturing environment where every child feels secure and is able to learn and grow.

Thank you for your understanding and partnership in keeping all Little Turtle children safe.