

Response to Child Biting

Policy

Biting is normal for toddlers and young children but is not allowed at Head Start.

Procedure

- Staff calmly intervene immediately when a child bites someone else:
 - Use a clear, firm, and calm voice to tell the child biting is not acceptable in a short and simple way.
 - The child is removed from the person bitten.
 - Attention is shifted to the person bitten, showing concern and sympathy.
 - Staff show and explain the effect of the bite on the other person.
 - Appropriate first aid is administered.
 - The child who bit is encouraged to help the other person by getting an ice pack.
 - Staff teach the child other ways to express feelings.
 - Everyone moves on with the day.
- An Accident and Incident Report (AIR) is completed for each child involved and sent to the Head Start Health Professional.
- Parents of the child who bit and was bitten are given an AIR. Confidentiality is maintained at all times, with no identifying information about the other child given.
- If a bite breaks the skin, staff contact the Head Start Health Professional immediately.
 - If a child is bitten, the parent is offered an exam by a health provider. The exam is paid for by Arrowhead Head Start. Signs of infection are also shared.
 - If a staff or volunteer is bitten, they must contact their Program Manager and complete and submit the "AEOA Accident Report" to the Program Manager within 24 hours of the incident.
- If a child repeatedly bites others, staff observe the child to try to identify certain patterns or triggers causing the behavior and strategies to avoid them.
- When needed, staff meet with the parents to develop a plan to address the behavior. The Head Start Disabilities and Mental Health Manager and/or Health Professional may be involved in these meetings.
- Families are referred to their health provider if the biting does not decrease over time.

This policy complies with Head Start Performance Standard [45CFR Section 1304.22](#)

Approved by Policy Council on February 16, 1999.

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