

Biting Policy

At Cheder Chabad, a biting incident is disturbing to our children, parents, and staff. It is typical for young children to use their mouths for exploring their world and expressing their feelings. There are many reasons toddlers may bite. Sometimes the biting is related to teething or to express feelings they cannot express with words yet. We have seen children bite when they are frustrated, and we have seen them bite in excitement of a happy moment. No one can predict which children may bite. We are ready to help toddlers who do bite to learn other behaviors. We are sympathetic to both the biter and the child being bitten.

When Biting Does Occur:

The staff's job is to keep the children safe and help a child that bites learn different, more appropriate behavior. We do not use techniques to alarm, hurt, or frighten the children.

For the child that was bitten:

1. First aid is given to the bite. It is cleaned with soap and water. If the skin is broken, the bite is covered with a bandage.
2. Parents are notified.
3. The "Ouch Report" form is filled out documenting the incident.

For the child that bit:

1. The teacher will firmly tell the child "Biting Hurt. Ouch!"
2. We encourage the biter to look at the bite and the child's sad face, to absorb the impact his bite had on the other child. Our overall message is to help the child learn the appropriate way to express his emotions, and or needs that he was seeking
3. We help give him language either verbally or bodily to share his feelings, and what they should do next time, "You wanted your friend to move. We don't bite. Let me show you how to instead walk around your friend."
4. We will usually have the biter help in the medical care of the bitten. Getting an ice pack and soothing the child.

5. The child may have to be relocated to a calm down space in the classroom, or be with the teacher because, "they were not being safe".
6. The parents are notified.

If the biting continues:

1. We will collect data to try and determine a pattern or trigger and will document the occurrences and information we glean. We will work on a plan to prevent further biting behavior that may include any of the following
 - Biting necklace
 - Shadow
 - Occupational or physical therapy evaluation
 - Behavioral evaluation

The administrative staff may also observe the child if the classroom staff is unable to determine the cause. The child will be given positive attention and approval for positive behavior.

2. In some instances, the child will need to be shadowed to help prevent any biting incidents and for the safety of the other children. We will be in touch with the parents regarding someone to attend to your child full time.

When biting becomes excessive:

If a child attempts to bite or bites successfully 3 times in a 4 hour period, the child will be required to be picked up from preschool for the remainder of the day.

The mission of the school is to enhance and promote positive development and growth. Our daily routines and schedules as well as trained staff are in place to eliminate as much frustration as possible. The atmosphere in our class is calm and serene, cheerful and happy. The activities are age appropriate and developmentally suitable for toddlers. We model calm behavior and discipline when necessary.