**Christ UMC Preschool Biting Policy**

Many children will bite when frustrated or unable to communicate. Although it is not uncommon for very young children to bite, it is a behavior that is taken very seriously and is strongly discouraged.

Our goal is to help identify what is causing the biting and resolve these issues. If the issue cannot be resolved, this policy serves to protect the children that are bitten. If a biting incident occurs, the parent of the child biting and the parent of the child who was bitten will be contacted. Names of the children are not shared with either parent.

**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.

**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. Our “bite form” is filled out documenting the incident.

**For the child that bit:**

1. The teacher will firmly tell the child "NO! DO NOT BITE!"
2. The child will be placed in a thinking chair for no longer than the child’s age (one-year-old, one minute).
3. The parents are notified.
4. Bite Form is filled out documenting the incident.

**When Biting Continues:**

1. The child will be shadowed to help prevent any biting incidents.
2. The child will be observed by the classroom staff to determine what is causing the child to bite (teething, communication, frustration, etc.) The administrative staff may also observe the child if the classroom staff is unable to determine the cause.
3. The child will be given positive attention and approval for positive behavior.

**When biting becomes excessive:**

* **First Offense:** If a child inflicts 3 bites in one school week in which the skin of another child or staff member is broken or bruised or the bite leaves a significant mark, a conference will be held with the parents to discuss the child’s behavior and how the behavior may be modified.
* **Second Offense:** If the child again inflicts 3 bites in one school week in which the skin of another child or staff member is broken or bruised or the bite leaves a significant mark, the child will be asked not to return for 2 school days.
* **Third Offense:** If a child once again inflicts 3 bites in one school week in which the skin of another child or staff member is broken or bruised or the bite leaves a significant mark, the child will be asked to take a two-week break from school so they can mature and hopefully reenter the classroom smoothly.

If a child, who has been through steps 1 and/or 2, goes 3 weeks without biting, we will go back to step one if the child bites again. **If a child bites twice in a 3 ½ hour period, the child will be required to be picked up from school for the remainder of the day.**