

Tree of Life Child Care Ministry

Biting Policy

Infants and One Year Olds: Children at this age range cannot rely on words in order to express themselves. Biting will be watched closely and children will be encouraged to use other means to express themselves. Staff members will inform the child that biting is not acceptable. Most children will grow out of this stage. The teacher will work with you, however, repeated biting will not be allowed to continue in the class and the child may need a time of removal.

Two to Five Year Olds: Children at this age range should know that biting is not an acceptable way to express themselves. Biting will not be tolerated and a child may be removed from Tree of Life if biting becomes excessive. Prior to being removed, Tree of Life will take the following steps:

- First bite – instance will be recorded in their file and parent/guardian will be informed.
- Second bite – parent/guardian will be contacted and a meeting with the child, parent/guardian, teacher, and Director will be set up and efforts will be made to take care of the problem.
- Third bite – parent/guardian will be contacted and the child will need to be picked up, and removed from Tree of Life for the remainder of that day.
- Fourth bite – parent/guardian will be contacted, the child will need to be picked up, and the child will not be allowed to return to Tree of Life for three days.
- Fifth bite – parent/guardian will be contacted, the child will need to be picked up, the child will not be allowed to return to Tree of Life for one month. If there is room, the child may be reenrolled after one month.
- Once the child returns after a month suspension, if biting continues the child will be removed at least 1 year from Tree of Life until it is no longer an issue age wise.

Each child and bite will be considered case by case with all circumstances being taken into consideration. The Director has the final word in the permanent removal of a child.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date