

Your Child Got Bitten at School

At Trillium Bilingual Montessori we take biting very seriously and we understand how upsetting it is to learn that your child was hurt by another child and has a mark on their body. We apologize for that.

We Track Biting Incidents For All Children

- At any time, a child may bite another child. It may be an isolated incident with the other child or it may be a behaviour that we are already aware of and are working with the parents of the child who is biting.
- Rest assured that we track biting incidents for all the children and we advise the parents of children involved in biting incidents if it's an ongoing problem and work with the parents of the child who is biting to manage the behaviour.



Understanding The Behaviour

Biting is the most difficult behaviour we face in a group of children. It can start and happen at any time; it happens fast and the results are devastating for all the parents involved.

The parents of the child who got bit are understandably upset to see a mark on their child. The parents who are told that their child hurt another child feel awful, guilty and helpless.

Biting is a normal developmental phase for all children. It is a difficult almost impossible habit to break, and some children stay in this stage longer, having a greater need for oral stimulation. It is often a matter of watching the biting child like a hawk while this is ongoing. Though we usually cannot 'stop' the



behavior, we can implement and give the child/parents/staff tools to ensure everyone's safety. It is a development phase; maybe your child likes to put everything in their mouth, others may eat sand or rocks, some children will lick anything and everything, some children grind their teeth and others bite. It is a way for them to explore their environment using their sense of taste and their mouth, tongue and teeth.



Children bite for these reasons:

- Lack of vocabulary
- Frustration
- They are overwhelmed in a situation and use biting as an outlet
- Jealousy (another child is getting attention)
- To simply see what will happen
- Overtired
- Need for oral stimulation



What is being done?

- The teachers are communicating with the parents of the biter to work through this behaviour, as well as seeing if the parents know a reason for the biting
- If an obvious reason is not found through talking with the parents, observations within the classroom begin to identify the cause of the biting
- The teachers will shadow the biter and keep the biter away from certain children if needed
- Additional staff to support (biting happens fast!), one-on-one shadowing of the biter
- We will give the parent of the biter relevant strategies to help correct the behaviour
- It is not something that the parent can 'control' or stop completely, it's something that needs to be managed and modified



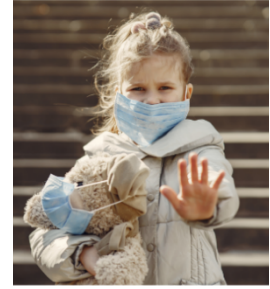
Is my child being targeted?

- No, biting is a behaviour that is completely personal need that the other child (biter) has
- Biting is never done to purposely 'hurt' another child
- Biting is usually a reaction to something; maybe they wanted a toy your child had or maybe your child took away their toy, whatever the situation, children don't just walk around and bite others unprovoked (it does not excuse or make the behaviour acceptable).
- Children don't 'target' another child. If it happens more than once, it is usually because children have friends with whom they play with more often. Chances are the 'biter' is one of your child's favourite friends.
- Studies show that about half of the children in daycare will get bitten because it is a developmental phase that children go through



As A Parent, How Can I Help Protect my Child?

- Teach your child that their hand up (stop-sign) means no. This is what we use within the classroom. Work with your child in a fun way to instill this practice.
- Remember ANY child can become a biter 'out of the blue' (including yours)
- No parent wants their child to be the biter and they feel horrible that their child has hurt another child



Caring for a Bite Mark At School

- Upon the incident, the teachers would have cleaned the area with soap and water
- Applied ice/cold compress at the location of the bite mark
- A bandage would be applied if the skin were broken

Caring for a Bite Mark At Home

- Remember that children have very sensitive skin and any bite mark will show up and bruise quickly, especially on fair skin
- If the bite did not break the skin (which most of the time it doesn't), it should heal pretty quickly without any infection.
- When a bite breaks the skin; it is important to clean it well. Keep a close eye on it and at any sign of infection (redness, heat at the location of the bite, discharge, puss, etc.) consult a medical professional. The human mouth contains a lot of bacteria and can easily cause an infection.
- If the child is experiencing pain at the location of the bite mark, keep a cold compress on it to reduce the swelling and pain.
- You can consider administering a pain reliever (Tylenol, Advil, etc.). However, if you feel the pain is enough that your child needs this, it may be a good idea to seek medical attention.



Why We Do NOT Have a Policy to Expel Children Who Bite

- TBM does not believe in expelling a child from our program for a developmental behaviour that is part of their development, however, we assure you that we are implementing additional precautions and working hand-in-hand with the biter's parents
- This behaviour can present itself in ANY child at ANY time (even yours).
- TBM sees this as an opportunity to work hand in hand with parents to assist them while they are going through this difficult behaviour the same way would do with any behaviour, developmental or physical development difficulties.
- In the case where a parent would refuse to assist in managing the biting behaviour, we would reassess their 'fit' in our program
- It's a temporary 'phase', it will pass. We just have to ensure everyone is safe while it is ongoing.



Signs To Teach Children to Help with Social Interactions

	 <p>HINT: Rub hand over chest in circular motion</p>	 <p>HINT: Touch lips, then move hand out like blowing a kiss</p>	 <p>HINT: The bottom hand lifts the fist hand up like a helping hand</p> <p><small>Note: Some babies tap both hands on chest</small></p>
<p>stop</p>	<p>please</p>	<p>thank you</p>	<p>help</p>
 <p>HINT: Make a "Y" with fingers and swing hands back and forth</p>	 <p>HINT: Pass one hand back and forth over vertical fingers of other hand like dividing something</p>	 <p>HINT: Show that nothing is in your hands</p>	 <p>HINT: Tap fingertips together twice</p>
<p>play</p>	<p>share</p>	<p>all done</p>	<p>more</p>
 <p>HINT: Like putting food in your mouth</p>	 <p>HINT: Tap "W" hand back and forth at the lips</p>	 <p>HINT: Like eyes being closed</p>	 <p>HINT: Pat leg to call the dog</p>
<p>eat</p>	<p>water</p>	<p>sleep</p>	<p>dog</p>