Biting Incident

POLICY/APPROACH:

Precautions will be taken to avoid the occurrence of human bites. If a human bite occurs SOCFC will take an active role in working with the parents to protect the health of both people involved, utilizing the recommendations of local health authorities.

Head Start Program Performance Standards:
1304.22(d)(1)&(2)—Injury Prevention
1304.22(e)(1)&(2)—Hygiene
1304.20(f)(1)—Individualization

OSHA Standards
29 CFR 1910-1030- Bloodborne Pathogens Standard

PROCEDURES:

1. If the bite does not break the skin of the person bitten and there is no blood exposure:
   A. Staff will fill out an Ouch Report for the child bitten and give a copy to the parent or send home in an envelope with the parent’s name on it. The Ouch Report should indicate what First Aid measures were taken and if they contacted the parent by phone. **NOTE:** Staff cannot share the names of other children involved or their parents’ names.
   B. Staff will file a copy of the Ouch Report in the file of the child who was bit.
   C. **Note: Only after NCR Ouch Report torn apart:** Staff will then write in the name of the child who did the biting in the incident on the Ouch Report copy to be routed to the Education Director or EHS Health & Nutrition Supervisor, for tracking of potential child guidance issues.

2. When biting incident results in a **BLOOD EXPOSURE:**
   A. The **Biter’s MOUTH** will be repeatedly rinsed for 5 minutes by filling and rinsing the mouth in a “Swish and Spit” motion designed to get the water back out of the mouth as quickly as possible. Advise the child to close his/her eyes during this process and to spit into the hand-washing sink.
   **Disinfect the hand-washing sink immediately after use.**
B. The BITTEN PERSON’S WOUND should be cleaned immediately and treated using First Aid measures. Center staff will call Health at Main Office to verify that the bitten child/adult has a current tetanus immunization. If the individual is not current, he/she will be referred to their Health Care Provider or the County Health Department. Any sign of infection should be immediately reported to the individual’s Health Care Provider and Head Start or EHS Health Office.

C. THE INCIDENT MUST BE REPORTED AS FOLLOWS:

When a Child bites another Child and there is a blood exposure:

- Report the incident to the parents of the child/children involved.
  1. Staff must attempt to call the parent of the child bitten and request they notify their child’s Health Care Provider about the incident and to seek medical attention, as needed. **NOTE: Staff cannot share the names of other children involved or their parents’ names.**
  2. Staff must attempt to call the parent of the child that bit the other child, and request they notify their child’s Health Care Provider that there was a blood exposure to their child and describe what measures were taken immediately after the biting (flushing the child’s mouth), and to seek medical attention as recommended by the provider. **NOTE: Staff cannot share the names of other children involved or their parents’ names.**
  3. Staff will fill out a separate Ouch Report for each child involved and give a copy to the parents or send home in an envelope with the parent’s name on it. The Ouch Report should indicate what First Aid measures were taken and if they contacted the parent by phone. If either child’s parent indicates they will be taking their child to the health care provider, staff will complete an Accident/Incident Report and send it to the Operation’s Manager/EHS Health/Nutrition Supervisor for tracking.

When a Child Bites a Staff Member and there is a blood exposure:

- Immediately access the Safety Notebook and reference the Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure Plan

  1. FOLLOW THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS OUTLINED IN THE EXPOSURE PLAN.
  2. There are several forms that must be completed as soon as possible and submitted to the HR & Safety Manager.

The Child Guidance Procedure or EHS Child Guidance Policy will be utilized with any child who bites repeatedly.