

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 parent/guardian to protect the health of both people involved, utilizing the recommendations of local health authorities.

Head Start Program Performance Standards:

1302.47(6) – Safety Practices: Hygiene

1302.47(7) – Safety Practices: Administrative Safety Procedures

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/guardian, or send home in an envelope with the parent's/guardian's name on it. *The Ouch Report* should indicate what First Aid measures were taken and if they contacted the parent/guardian by phone. **NOTE: Staff cannot share the names of other children involved or their parent's/guardian's names.**
- b. Data enter the *Ouch Report* in database. Also enter information in database under *Challenging Behaviors Documentation* in the *Education* tab for the child that bit the other child. Once the *Ouch Report* has been attached in database, the center's copy may be shredded.

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. Inspect the child's mouth for any open sores or cuts that could have been a source of exposure.
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 the Main Office to verify

that the bitten child 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 Health Manager.

c. The **INCIDENT MUST BE REPORTED** as follows:

i. **When a CHILD BITES ANOTHER CHILD and there is a BLOOD EXPOSURE:**

➤ **Report the incident to the parents/guardians of the children involved.**

- i. Staff must attempt to call the parent/guardian of the child bitten and request that 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'/guardians' names.**
- ii. Staff must attempt to call the parent/guardian 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 inform them to seek medical attention as recommended by the provider. **NOTE: Staff cannot share the names of other children involved or their parents'/guardians' names.**

- ii. Staff will fill out a separate Ouch Report for each child involved and give a copy to the parent/guardian or send home in an envelope with the parent's/guardian's name on it. The Ouch Report should indicate what First Aid measures were taken and if they contacted the parent/guardian by phone. If either child's parent/guardian indicates they will be taking their child to the health care provider, staff will complete the [Online Child Incident Report](#) for reporting.

- d. Data enter the Ouch Report in database. Also enter information in Shine under *Challenging Behaviors Documentation* in the *Education* tab for the child that bit the other child. Once the Ouch Report has been attached in database, the center's copy may be shredded.

3. **When a CHILD BITES A STAFF MEMBER and there is BLOOD EXPOSURE:**

- Immediately access the Employee Illness and Injury Prevention Program. Employees shall report any exposure incident to their supervisor and the Human Resources Department within two hours following the incident.

- a. **FOLLOW THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS OUTLINED IN THE BLOOD BORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN (*found in the [Employee Illness and Injury Prevention Program](#)*).**

There are several forms that must be completed as soon as possible and submitted to Human Resources.

- b. Staff will fill out a Child-Incident Report and *Ouch Report* for the child involved and give a copy to the parents/guardians or send it home in an envelope with the parent's/guardian's name on it. The *Ouch Report* should indicate what First Aid measures were taken and if they contacted the parent/guardian by phone.
- c. Data enter the Ouch Report in database. Also enter information in Shine under *Challenging Behaviors Documentation* in the *Education* tab for the child that bit the staff member. Once the Ouch Report has been attached in database, the center's copy may be shredded.

***For children who continuously bite, the teacher will follow Challenging Behavior Reporting 0-5 Procedure.**