

Hinton “Little Hawks” Preschool and Daycare Policy on Children’s Acts of Aggression/Biting

Aggressive acts, both intentional and unintentional, occur in child care settings. Biting and hitting and other aggressive acts may be manifestations of different emotional feelings at different ages.

1) Acts of aggression can be a form of communication. Biting is almost always a response to the child’s needs not being met or coping with a challenge or stressor. Children will not be labeled as “biters” because such labels harm children’s self-perceptions and intensify biting behaviors (Zero to Three 2010).

The Hinton “Little Hawks” Preschool and Daycare has adopted the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) strategies and techniques as the basis for handling classroom management and behavior problems.

2) The Hinton “Little Hawks” Preschool and Daycare will respond to incidents of biting and other acts of aggression in the following manner:

Staff will ensure that all children are safe.

Staff will provide needed first aid and attention to the child or staff member who was bitten or injured, showing concern and support for that child or staff member.

Staff will use appropriate behavioral management techniques as defined in the Hinton “Little Hawks” Preschool and Daycare Discipline Policy including:

- Maintaining proper adult-child ratio
- Providing an adequate number of toys and materials
- Redirection
- Positive, Descriptive Phrase
- Planned Ignoring
- Choices
- Positive reinforcement
- Teaching and Re-teaching appropriate behaviors
- Role-Modeling
- Natural Consequences
- Adult proximity to children with problematic behaviors
- Removal from the group (Time Out)

3) In the event of a child biting, hitting, or otherwise injuring another child or adult, the Hinton “Little Hawks” Preschool and Daycare teacher will assess the adequacy of caregiver supervision and the context and environment in which the injury occurred.

Assessment will include:

Quality of relationship between the child and staff

Staff knowledge of child’s needs, interests, routines, and preferences

Environmental influences

Availability of adequate toys and materials

Layout of classroom (quiet centers, open spaces)
Social/Emotional Supports
Daily routines
Transitions times
Redirection
Staff training

4) The child who was bitten or injured will be given immediate first aid, care, and concern. The child with the challenging behavior will be taught in a caring and firm way that the behavior is unacceptable. The above mentioned strategies will be implemented.

5) Incident reports for the injured child will be completed by the staff with knowledge of the incident.

6) Behavior Incident Report will be completed by the staff with knowledge of the incident for the child who bit , and will include:

- Problem behavior
- Location of incident
- Activity
- Others involved
- Possible motivation
- Strategy/Consequence

7) Hinton “Little Hawks” Preschool will maintain the highest level of confidentiality in order to enable children and their families to comfortably share information with staff resulting in an environment in which the staff is able to fully and adequately meet the needs of the child and the child’s family, the staff maintains a high level of professionalism, and to insure compliance with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations. The name of the child who bit or caused injury will be kept confidential as well of the name of the child who was bitten or injured.

8) All Hinton “Little Hawks” Preschool and Daycare staff will maintain current training in First Aid and CPR taught by the Health/Nutrition staff under the American Red Cross Providers Agreement.

- Clean wound with soap and water
- Apply cold pack to affected area
- Refer to Nurse, Parent, or emergency services as needed for care