

STRATEGIES TO PREVENT BITING IN INFANTS AND TODDLERS

INFANT AND TODDLER MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS

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2

OBJECTIVES

- Explore biting behavior and its effect on typical development
- Examine why some infants and toddlers bite
- Discuss typical scenarios of infants and toddlers biting
- Learn strategies to support caregivers to decrease biting behaviors

3

POLL QUESTION #1

At what age does biting happen most often?

- A. Infancy
- B. Toddler
- C. Two
- D. Three

4

LET'S DEFINE BITING BEHAVIOR



5

WHY DO INFANTS AND TODDLERS BITE?

- They're in pain
- They're exploring their world
- They're looking for a reaction
- They're craving attention
- They're frustrated
- They're lacking in verbal skills



6

POLL QUESTION #2

In your program, what time of the day does biting happen most frequently?

- A. Early Morning
- B. Late Morning
- C. Afternoon
- D. End of the day

7

WHEN DO INFANTS AND TODDLERS BITE?

- Teething pain
- Exploring cause and effect
- Experiencing sensations
- Satisfying oral-motor needs
- Imitating others
- Feeling strong and in control
- Desiring attention
- Acting in self defense
- Communicating needs and desires
- Expressing feelings

8

WHAT CAUSES BITING?

- Instinct
- Exploration
- Limited resources
- Expression

9

POLL QUESTION #3

When does biting most often occur in your child care setting?

- A. Circle time
- B. Free choice indoor time
- C. Outdoors
- D. Transition times

10

RESPONDING TO BITING

- Be calm and firm
- Comfort the infant or toddler who was bitten
- Comfort the infant or toddler who bit
- Offer alternatives
- Redirect



11

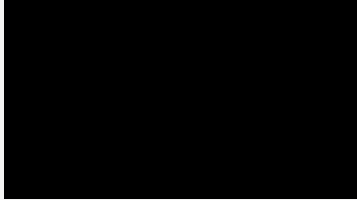
STRATEGIES TO HELP

- Distract
- Eliminate triggers
- Model sharing
- Read biting books
- Collect data
- Take responsibility



12

WE DON'T PUT OUR TEETH ON PEOPLE



13

REFERENCES

- Zero to Three
- Kidshealth.org
- NAEYC
- From Biting to Hugging by Donna S.Witzmer,PHD and Deanna W. Clauson
- The Biting Solution:The Expert's No-Biting Guide for Parents, Caregivers, and Early Childhood Educators by Lisa Poelle

14

THIS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH ...



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15



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16
