

## **Special Letter to Parents about "Biting" for the 2011-2012 School Year**

Dear Everyone,

Just a reminder to everyone that Ivy Hedge has a dismissal policy for those children who "bite" or exhibit other socially unacceptable behavior such as kicking, hitting or hurting other children or the teachers.

Rest assured we know that occasionally any child can exhibit this kind of behavior and it is part of normal growing pains. I am speaking of the children who do not fall into the "normal" range and for whom biting and /or hitting has become a normal way for them to relate to their peers. We feel a responsibility toward all our children to keep them safe from these kinds of incidents. The following is how we feel about it and how we handle it.

If your child bites or hurts a child by kicking or hitting once, we will talk with the child and you about this occurrence. Under normal conditions this will take care of it for the rest of the school year. However, for those children for whom this has become a "habit" another biting, kicking, and/or hitting incident will occur within a few days or a week. If your child should bite or hurt another child on "two separate occasions" you will be asked to leave the school. Security deposits and advance payments are all refunded and we hope we can maintain some degree of "good will" with these families. You will be charged only for the days you have attended.

There is nothing pathologically wrong about biting and/or socially aggressive behavior in these early years. Most children outgrow this behavior by the time they are 4 or 5 years old. However, it can take anywhere from six months to two years for it to be overcome. Unfortunately the school can't be part of the waiting process.

We are willing to work with all parents of children who are not quite "socialized" yet by taking the child back into our program after three or four months have passed if you feel the aggressive social behavior has been overcome.

If you already know you have a "biter", please speak to me about it before the school year begins in the fall. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding about this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Kopec and Staff