



# DUCKLINGS Classroom Information





## Welcome To Ducklings!

Dear Parent,

Welcome to the Ducklings room! My name is Desiree, and I'll be one of your child's teachers.

I joined the Tender Years family just a few months ago in November 2020 as a floater. I am very excited that this opportunity has become available and I can now begin this new journey as a teacher. I currently attend Shippensburg University and I am studying to obtain a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. I take all classes online so that they never interfere with my work and I can give all my time and attention to my Tender Years family. Upon graduation in 2022, I will be certified to teach Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade and special education. Through school I have put in my necessary classroom hours observing at other local childcare centers. Previously, I was also a babysitter, youth cheer coach, and volunteer at a youth church camp. I have always had a passion for working with young children and I wanted to gain more experience working one on one with children helping them to learn new things in a classroom setting.

I love working with the young one year old age group because they are always discovering new things about themselves and the world around them. They are constantly changing and growing and gaining new social and emotional skills. They are never afraid to try something new and the skills they gain at this age can help them lay the foundation for the rest of their learning career. I also have a one-year-old son who attends Tender Years in the Front Nursery. Learning from him as a mom, I feel very prepared to work with this age group and I think it is the perfect fit for me.

I look forward to getting to know you and your child and I am very excited to work in the Duckling Room. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have while your child is enrolled in my classroom.

Sincerely,

Miss Desiree



## Welcome To Ducklings!

Dear Parent,

Welcome to the Ducklings room! My name is Taylor, and I'll be one of your child's teachers.

In our classroom, your child will have fun enjoying art projects, tactile activities, gross motor exercises, songs/finger plays, story books, and group play. Our classroom has several different play/learning centers for students to enjoy individually or in small groups. We encourage self-help skills, so you will see your child begin to help undress/dress themselves, drink from a cup, eat with a spoon, walk and run unassisted, and much more!

I joined the Tender years family in October 2020 after spending five years in childcare. I love working with toddlers because I enjoy teaching them their early learning skills. I also love their personalities and being able to learn each one of them. Toddlers never fail to amaze me and impress me with their intelligence!

Children have always brought me so much joy and always make me smile. It is so important to me to make sure I always do the same for them. Every day is a new and fun experience, and I am excited for all of them. I look forward to getting to know you and your child.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have while your child is enrolled in my classroom.

Sincerely,

Miss Taylor



## Daily Schedule

**7:00am-8:15am:** Arrival/ Free Play

**8:15am-8:45am:** Diaper Changes

**8:45am-9:15am:** Morning Snack

**9:15am-9:45am:** Art/Small Group Activities/Centers

**9:45am-10:15am:** Diaper Changes

**10:15am-11:00am:** Outside Play (weather permitting)

**11:00am-11:30am:** Song/Story/Planned Activities (math, science, motor skills)

**11:30am-11:55am:** Lunch

**11:55am-12:15pm:** Clean up/Diaper Changes/Prepare for Nap

**12:15pm-2:30pm:** Nap/Rest Time

**2:30pm-3:00pm:** Wake Up/Diaper Changes

**3:00pm-3:30pm:** Afternoon Snack

**3:30pm-3:45pm:** Free Play/Centers

**3:45pm-4:15pm:** Outside Play (weather permitting)

**4:15pm-4:45pm:** Diaper Changes

**4:45pm-5:30pm:** Free Play/Group Activities/Departure

### Additional Notes

- Diapers will follow individual schedules (every 2 hours).
- Our daily lesson plan is posted on Tadpoles and can be found on the bulletin board.
- Children are not awakened from naps to be changed, but will be changed as soon as they wake up.
- Please make sure your child has weather appropriate gear everyday (hat or jacket if needed.)



## Helping You Get Settled In

### Arrival and Pick-Up

Tender Years, Inc. is using a secure app called Tadpoles. This is a simple way to log your child in and out of school. You will simply sign your child in on the iPad in the lobby as soon as you enter the building. You and anyone else authorized to pick up your child will be given a 4 digit pin and with just one swipe your child will be in our system for that day. At the end of the day you will follow the same procedure to sign your child out. At the time of sign out your child's care sheet will automatically be sent to your email. This app will also alert us when your child is due for a Well Child Physical and/or immunizations. We will notify you in order to collect the proper paper work for your child's file.

### House Shoes (Mechanicsburg Center Only)

In an effort to decrease the amount of dirt that is tracked into classrooms, we require all students to use a pair of house shoes. House shoes can be slippers, sneakers or crocs. We ask that all house shoes have a sole on the bottom in the event that we would need to leave the building unexpectedly. Along with the children's use of house shoes, we also ask that all adults remove their shoes or put on shoe covers prior to entering the classroom.

### Refrigerators

There are refrigerators in every classroom. If your child has something that must be kept cold, please label this item and place it in the classroom refrigerator. Unfortunately, our refrigerators are not large enough to hold all students' lunch boxes, so please remove items from your child's lunch box before placing them in the refrigerator. Lunch boxes can be left in your child's cubby or on a shelf designated by the teachers.

### Pickups by Relatives, etc.

If someone other than a parent is picking up your child, please let the teachers know in advance. We will always check the ID of the person picking up your child, as well as the emergency contact form, to be sure that you have given permission for your child to be released to that individual. If a situation arises where another party (who is not on the emergency contact form) needs to pick up your child, please see an office staff member to fill out a "Permission to Release Your Child" form.

### Daily Contact and Communication

To communicate with parents, each classroom has an iPad with specialized management & communication software called Tadpoles. If you would like to receive daily communications via text message or email, including photos from your child's teacher, please be sure to complete the email and phone section of your Emergency Contact form. You will then be assigned a four digit code, which will allow you to clock your child in and out of the center daily from the main iPad, located in the front lobby. Parents are required by DHS to clock in and out of the center daily.

Tadpoles is meant to be a two way communication system for parents and teachers, providing a convenient way to relay basic information and/or updates on a child. (Example: "John did not sleep well last night. Please let me know how his morning is going."). Please download the Tadpoles parent app onto your smart phone and feel free to choose the settings that best suit your needs.

All children enrolled at Tender Years, Inc. will receive daily updates via our Tadpoles system. These daily reports will tell you when your child was changed or used the bathroom, when and how much they ate, their nap schedule for that day, daily lesson plans and activities, and other pertinent information. At the end of the day, when your child is checked out, a complete daily sheet will be sent to your email address.

Additionally, please feel free to call the center at any time to check in on your child. If your child going to be absent, please let us know by marking your child absent or on vacation in the Tadpoles app. If your child is diagnosed with an illness, please let us know by marking your child ill in the Tadpoles app and sending us a note with any pertinent information. Per Department of Human Services we must post any illnesses that are in your child's classroom.

### Open Door Policy

Tender Years has an open door policy, which means you may come in to visit your child at any point, unannounced. If you would like to come have lunch with your child, observe them in the classroom or just check in to say hello, you are more than welcome.





### Toys from Home

Tender Years provides all of the classroom toys, activities and art supplies that are needed throughout the day. Bringing toys from home is prohibited. However, your child may bring a quiet stuffed toy to lay with during nap/quiet time. This policy has been put in place to ensure that your child's personal items are not lost or broken.

### Snacks/Celebrations

Snack time will occur daily after your child's nap/rest period. Snack will be provided by Tender Years for Toddler through School Age classrooms. You may bring in a special snack for your child's birthday! *Reminder: Camp Hill & Hershey centers are nut & allergy conscious, while Mechanicsburg is a NUT-FREE center!*

### Items Needed

#### Nursery:

- 2 Crib-Size Sheets
- Sleep Sacks or Wearable Blankets (optional)
- Bibs (If your child is eating jar or finger food a vinyl/plastic bib may be left at the center.)
- Burp Cloths
- 2 Complete Change of Clothes (including socks)
- Pacifier and Pacifier Clip
- Diapers (Children are changed every 2 hours, or sooner if needed.)
- Wipes and a Reusable Wipe Container
- Diaper Cream
- Family Pictures (optional)
- Baby Food/Bottles (All bottles must be pre-made and have a lid on them. We cannot mix formula at the center.)

#### Toddlers:

- 1 Crib-Size Sheet
- Blanket for Nap Time Use Only (optional)
- Quiet Stuffed Animal for Nap Time Use Only (optional)
- 1 Vinyl/Plastic Bib (to be left at the center)
- 2 Complete Changes of Clothes (including socks) (more if potty-training)
- Pacifier and Pacifier Clip (optional)
- Diapers (Children are changed every 2 hours, or sooner if needed.)
- Wipes and a Reusable Wipe Container
- Diaper Cream (optional)
- Family Pictures (optional)
- Food/Bottles - if needed (All bottles must come in premade and have a lid on them. We cannot mix formula at the center. All food and drinks will be sent home daily.)
- House Shoes (Mechanicsburg Only) - to be left at the center
- Labeled Reusable Water Bottle (This may stay at the center overnight, but will sent be sent home at the end of every week, or sooner if you would like.)

#### Preschool and PreK / K-Readiness:

- 1 Crib-Size Sheet or Small Seeping Bag/Pillow
- Blanket for Nap Time Use Only (optional)
- Quiet Stuffed Animal for Nap Time Use Only (optional)
- 2 Complete Changes of Clothes (including socks)
- Accidents and spills do occur. Please note that preschoolers are expected to wear underpants. Every effort is made to teach independent toileting skills, but help is provided if necessary. You may send in wipes if needed.
- Lunch (To be brought in and sent home on a daily bases. Also, please see our lunch service option.)
- House Shoes (Mechanicsburg Only) - to be left at the center
- Labeled Reusable Water Bottle (This may stay at the center overnight, but will sent be sent home at the end of every week, or sooner if you would like.)



#### **Kindergarten / Kindergarten Enrichment / Before & After School:**

- 2 Complete Change of Clothes (including socks)
- Lunch (If your child is in our half day kindergarten enrichment program, they will eat lunch before leaving. Lunch is to be brought in and sent home on a daily bases. Also, please see our lunch service option.)
- House Shoes (Mechanicsburg Only) - to be left at the center
- Labeled Reusable Water Bottle (This may stay at the center overnight, but will sent be sent home at the end of every week, or sooner if you would like.)

#### **Medication Policy**

Diaper Cream, lip baum or Vaseline may be brought in. A permission slip must be filled out by the parents allowing us to apply any over-the-counter cream. All creams must be handed to the teacher so that the teacher can properly store them in a locked cabinet. No creams, lotions or lib balms are permitted in your child's cubbies, lunchboxes or back packs.

Prescription medication can only be given if a doctor's note is present. All prescriptions must be approved by the director, and the proper medication log must be filled out and signed in the office in order for the medication to be given. No prescription medications are permitted in the classrooms.

#### **Lunch Options**

You may bring your child's lunch in daily or you may purchase a lunch. A purchased lunch is a well-rounded meal costing just \$2.75 a day. All lunch orders must be submitted monthly via our online order form, located on our website at [TenderYearsPA.com](http://TenderYearsPA.com). Orders will be accepted between the FIRST MONDAY and the THIRD FRIDAY of each month, for the following month's lunches. For your convenience, we send out regular reminders via email.

Upon placing your lunch order, you will be prompted to submit a payment via our payment processor. Payments must be debited directly from a bank account, therefore, you must complete our One Time Payment Authorization Form prior to ordering. (Your bank account information does not need to be filled in, unless it is a different bank account from which we withdrawal your tuition.)

#### **Lesson Plans/Academic Activities**

Lesson plans are created by each teacher individually. The lesson plans follow PA State standards and are designed to meet the needs of every child. Lesson plans follow a weekly theme. For example: If children are showing an interest in bugs, the teacher will base a weekly lesson plan around this. Lesson plans also reflect the seasons and holidays. Once you are in our Academy Program (Preschool, Pre-K, K-Readiness and Kindergarten Enrichment) your child will also participate in extracurricular activities such as music or science. These extra classes are taught by professionals on a weekly basis (and monthly basis for science).

#### **Outside Play**

It is a Department of Human Services regulation that all children go outside at least 2 times per day, weather permitting. We will go outside for 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the afternoon. Outside play time consists of playing on the playground, taking walks to nearby parks, drawing with sidewalk chalk, bike riding, etc. While outdoors, sneakers must be worn. No sandals or crocs are allowed on the playground.

Fall/Winter: We will go outside if the temperature is 27 degrees or above. We will stay inside if the temperature is below 27 degrees or if there is any precipitation or snow on the ground (we follow the "feels like" temperature).

Spring/Summer: We will go outside if the temperature is 90 degrees or below. We will stay inside if the temperature is above 90 degrees and/or there is a heat or air advisory (we follow the "feels like" temperature).



## Tender Years, Inc. Behavior Plan

At Tender Years, we believe that every child should be treated with respect and dignity. We have put a discipline policy in place to ensure consistency among all classrooms. We use techniques such as . . .

### Calming Corner

In some situations removing a child from a group may be required. In this case, we calmly remove the child with as little disruption as possible, state the violated behavior, and place the child where visual supervision can be maintained. Children should never be placed or set in a corner, hallway or any other humiliating situations. If a child is removed from the group, it will be for a short period of time where they will be redirected to another play area or activity (puzzle, book, etc).

### Negotiation Station

Negotiation Station is a great place for children to go when they are having a conflict with another child, teacher or themselves. Negotiation Station is a calm, peaceful area in the classroom (usually with a small table, pillows, books about emotions, pictures of different emotions, puppets, etc.) where children can talk about the problem and come up with a solution. Teachers are often involved in the Negotiation Station but encourage and teach children ways to solve problems on their own.

*\*According to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS)...*

*No child will be punished by corporal punishment or verbal abuse. Please keep in mind, this policy also applies to parents. Children may not be spanked or threatened to be spanked at the child care center. The following behaviors are prohibited (by ALL persons) in ALL child care settings:*

- Corporal punishment, including hitting, spanking, swatting, beating, shaking, pinching, and other measures intended to induce physical pain or fear;*
- Threatened or actual withdrawal of food, rest or use of the bathroom;*
- Abusive or profane language;*
- Any form of public or private humiliation, including threats of physical punishment;*
- Any form of emotional abuse, including shaming, rejecting, terrorizing or isolating a child.*





## Behavioral Health Community Resources

### General Information

- Cumberland/Perry Office of Mental Health & IDD: 717-240-6320
- Dauphin County Department of MH/ID: 717-780-7050

### Behavioral Health System

PerformCare - All Counties  
8040 Carlson Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112  
717-671-6500 or 800-700-7370

If your child already has Medical Assistance and you would like to access mental/behavioral health care services directly, PerformCare manages and coordinates behavioral health services through contracted service providers. They will be able to help schedule an evaluation and make referrals to different agencies for services such as TSS, BSC, PCIT, Mobile Therapy, and Family Based Therapy.

### Case Management

Case Management Units will conduct and intake interview, establish eligibility, and assess your child's needs. A case manager will be assigned in order to help plan and access services, navigate the behavioral/mental health system, and access community resources.

#### Cumberland County CMU (2 Locations)

- Behavioral Health Center at Holy Spirit  
503 N. 21st St.  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
717-763-2219
- Case Management at NHS: The Stevens Center  
33 State Avenue  
Carlisle, PA 17013  
717-243-6033

#### Dauphin County CME (2 Locations)

- Harrisburg Area CMU  
1100 South Cameron St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17104  
717-232-8761
- Upper Dauphin Area CMU  
295 State Drive  
Elizabethtown, PA 17023  
717-362-1212 or 866-820-3521



## Tender Years Breakfast

(Served Daily 7am-9am)

| AGE                              | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY   |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>TODDLER</b><br>(AGES 1-2)     | 1/4 Cup Cereal<br>(Cheerios/Life)<br>1/2 Cup Milk<br>1/2 Cup Fruit | 1/2 Slice of Whole<br>Wheat Toast<br>1/2 Slice of Cheese<br>1/4 Cup Juice<br>1/2 Cup Fruit | 1 Whole Waffle* /<br>French Toast Sticks<br>1/4 Cup Applesauce<br>1/2 Cup Milk<br>*Margarine/Syrup Optional | English Muffin*<br>1/4 Cup Fruit<br>1/4 Cup Juice<br>*Margarine/Syrup Optional | 1/4 Cup Cereal<br>(Cheerios/Life)<br>1/2 Cup Milk<br>1/2 Cup Fruit |
| <b>PRESCHOOL</b><br>(AGES 3-5)   | 1/3 Cup Cereal<br>(Cheerios/Life)<br>3/4 Cup Milk<br>1/2 Cup Fruit | 1/2 Slice of Whole<br>Wheat Toast<br>1 Slice of Cheese<br>1/2 Cup Juice<br>1/2 Cup Fruit   | 1 Whole Waffle* /<br>French Toast Sticks<br>1/2 Cup Applesauce<br>1/2 Cup Milk<br>*Margarine/Syrup Optional | English Muffin*<br>1/2 Cup Fruit<br>1/2 Cup Juice<br>*Margarine/Syrup Optional | 1/3 Cup Cereal<br>(Cheerios/Life)<br>3/4 Cup Milk<br>1/2 Cup Fruit |
| <b>SCHOOL-AGE</b><br>(AGES 6-12) | 3/4 Cup Cereal<br>(Cheerios/Life)<br>1 Cup Milk<br>1/2 Cup Fruit   | 1 Slice of Whole<br>Wheat Toast<br>1 Slice of Cheese<br>1/2 Cup Juice<br>1/2 Cup Fruit     | 1 Whole Waffle* /<br>French Toast Sticks<br>3/4 Cup Applesauce<br>1 Cup Milk<br>*Margarine/Syrup Optional   | English Muffin*<br>1 Cup Fruit<br>1/2 Cup Juice<br>*Margarine/Syrup Optional   | 3/4 Cup Cereal<br>(Cheerios/Life)<br>1 Cup Milk<br>1/2 Cup Fruit   |

\*\*Fresh fruit may be substituted upon availability. Fruit = Banana, peaches, or mixed fruit

Tender Years, Inc. breakfast menu follows the USDA guidelines for the Child Care Food Program, Meal Patterns

**CAMP HILL**  
203 House Avenue  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
717-761-7113

**HAMPDEN**  
4545 Marketplace Way  
Enola, PA 17025  
717-550-2399

**HERSHEY**  
50 E. Chocolate Ave.  
Hershey, PA 17033  
717-533-1466

**MECHANICSBURG**  
201 Bryant St.  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
717-590-7050



## Tender Years Afternoon Snacks

| AGE                                      | MONDAY                                       | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY                                    | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY  |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| TODDLER<br>(AGES 1-2)                    | Breakfast Bar<br>Fruit<br>Milk or Water      | Veggie Straws<br>Applesauce<br>Milk or Water                  | Cheese & Crackers<br>Fruit<br>Milk or Water  | Animal or Graham<br>Crackers<br>Applesauce<br>Milk or Water                      | Goldfish Crackers<br>Fresh Fruit<br>Milk or Water |
| PRESCHOOL -<br>SCHOOL AGE<br>(AGES 3-12) | Breakfast Bar<br>1/2 Banana<br>Milk or Water | Veggie Straws<br>Baby Carrots & Ranch<br>Dip<br>Milk or Water | Cheese & Crackers<br>Fruit<br>Juice or Water | Animal or Graham<br>Crackers<br>1/2 Cup Fruit or<br>Applesauce<br>Juice or Water | Goldfish Crackers<br>Fresh Fruit<br>Milk or Water |

\*Fresh fruit may be substituted upon availability. Fruit = Banana, peaches, or mixed fruit

**CAMP HILL**  
203 House Avenue  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
717-761-7113

**HAMPDEN**  
4545 Marketplace Way  
Enola, PA 17025  
717-550-2399

**HERSHEY**  
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**MECHANICSBURG**  
201 Bryant St.  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
717-590-7050



## Potty Training

All toddler classrooms have access to a toddler bathroom. Below is some information regarding potty training. Our teachers are prepared to help with potty training as soon as you are ready to do so at home. When the time comes, please communicate this with your child's teachers!

### Is It Time?

Potty training success hinges on physical and emotional readiness, not a specific age. Many children show interest in potty training by age 2, but others may not be ready until age 2 ½ or older – and there's no rush. At Tender Years, children must be potty trained before they begin in our Preschool Classroom.

Is your child ready? Ask yourself these questions:

- Does your child seem interested in the toilet, or in wearing underwear?
- Can your child understand and follow basic directions?
- Does your child tell you through words, facial expressions, or posture when he or she needs to go?
- Does your child stay dry for periods of two hours or longer during the day?
- Does your child complain about wet or dirty diapers?
- Can your child pull down his or her pants and pull them up again?
- Can your child sit on and rise from the toilet?

If you answered mostly yes, your child might be ready for potty training. If you answered mostly no, you might want to wait – especially if your child has recently faced or is about to face a major change, such as a move or the arrival of a new sibling. A toddler who opposes potty training today might be open to the idea in a few months. The secret to success is patience – and a lot of it!

### Ready, Set Go!

When you decide it's time to begin potty training, set your child up for success. Start by maintaining a positive attitude, then follow these steps:

#### Pull Out The Equipment

If desired, place a potty chair in the bathroom. You may want to try a model with a removable top that can be placed directly on the toilet when your child is ready. Encourage your child to sit on the potty chair – with or without a diaper. Make sure your child's feet rest firmly on the floor or a stool. Help your child understand how to talk about the bathroom using simple and correct terms. You might want to dump the contents of a dirty diaper into the potty chair to show its purpose, or let your child see family members using the toilet. We have toddler sized toilets in our bathrooms for the students to use so children will not need a potty chair at school.

#### Schedule Potty Breaks

If your child is interested, have him or her sit on the potty chair or toilet without a diaper for a few minutes several times a day. Read a potty-training book or give your child a special toy to use while sitting on the potty chair or toilet. Stay with your child when he or she is in the bathroom. Even if your child simply sits there, offer praise for trying – and remind them that they can try again later!



### **Get There – Fast!**

When you notice signs that your child might need to use the toilet – such as, squirming, squatting, or holding themselves – respond quickly. Help your child become familiar with these signals, stop what he or she is doing and head to the toilet. Praise your child for telling you when he or she has to go. Teach girls to wipe carefully from front to back to prevent spreading germs that can cause urinary tract infections. When it's time to flush, let your child do the honors and be sure your child washes his or her hands after using the toilet.

### **Consider Incentives**

Some children respond to stickers or stars on a chart. For others, trips to the park or extra bedtime stories are effective. Experiment to find what works best for your child. Reinforce your child's effort with verbal praise such as: "How exciting! You're learning to use the toilet just like big kids do!" Be positive even if a trip to the bathroom isn't successful.

### **Ditch The Diapers**

After several weeks of successful potty breaks, your child might be ready to trade diapers for training pants or regular underwear. Celebrate this transition! Go on a special outing – let your child select their "big kid" underwear, call close friends or loved ones and let your child spread the news. When your child is ready for regular underwear, avoid overalls, belts, leotards, or other items that could hinder quick undressing and be prepared to send in extra clothing to school.

### **Sleep Soundly**

Most children master daytime bladder control first, often within about two or three months of consistent potty training. Nap and nighttime training might take a few months – or years – longer. In the meantime, use pull-ups or plastic mattress covers when your child sleeps.

### **Know When To Take a Break**

If your child resists using the potty chair or toilet or isn't getting the hang of it within a few weeks, take a break. Chances are he or she isn't ready yet. Try again in a few weeks or months!



## Biting

Many infants and toddlers bite others. Biting can occur for a variety of reasons, and oftentimes the child does not realize biting hurts others. At Tender Years, we have procedures in place to ensure the safety and well-being of each child in our classrooms. The steps we take in instances such as biting in toddler classrooms are noted below:

- All incidents/injuries are logged on an incident/injury form and the parents of both the injured child and the aggressor is notified.
- A child showing aggressive behavior, or a frequent biter, is shadowed by the staff and will stay close to a staff member at all times.
- Staff will log attempted and successful bites noting date, time, circumstances, and results.
- Monthly logs are submitted to the director for review with plans of action on how to possibly prevent further incidents.
- Staff and Director review the logs to determine the timing, conditions, etc. and make any needed classroom changes (room arrangement, schedule changes, group size, etc.)
- Technical assistance from an outside source may be requested to help staff learn alternative methods in dealing with behaviors such as biting.
- Professional evaluations from an outside source may be requested to help a family if all other resources and steps show that this is necessary.

## Why Do Children Bite?

It is developmentally appropriate for children to bite – especially those that are still in the beginning stages of communication. Additional reasons for biting can include:

- Anger/Frustration
- Too much stimulation
- Not enough adult/child interaction
- Imitation of behavior
- Confusion
- Reaction/Attention Seeking
- Avoidance of a task
- Lack of words
- Tired
- To gain access to something denied
- Hunger
- Child has oral motor needs/Teething
- Fear/Sadness
- Not enough activity
- Curiosity
- Difficulty waiting for a turn

Most of the time, biting is a rare event. Children learn quickly that biting is not acceptable. If a child begins to bite repetitively, we consider all the factors that might be causing the problem. We watch closely and document information to try to determine if there is a pattern and are prepared to prevent future biting. In cases of children who bite frequently, we speak with the family and discuss beginning referral processes for assessments of development and behavior, always confidentially to respect the family's privacy.