



CONNECT TO THE CLASSROOM

Biting

In this part of the module, you learned that biting is a common behavior in older babies and toddlers, but it can be very distressing to teachers, parents, and other children because of the potential for children or teachers to get hurt. Most children outgrow biting by age three and a half. Remember that ways to prevent biting include:

- providing teething babies with safe things to chew on
- providing toddlers with enough play space to minimize crowding and help them share space
- helping toddlers learn words to say to express their feelings and needs
- praising children when they communicate with words and gestures
- reading books that remind children of safe ways to interact with and touch others

Think about children who bite in your class as you reflect on the following questions.

1

When a child bites, what do you typically do first? Why?

2

What new strategies from the list above will you try in your classroom this week?

3

Biting can make teachers feel upset, especially if you or another child is hurt by the bite. However, teachers must never take out their feelings on children, such as by yelling, handling a child roughly, or biting the child back. What can you do to calm yourself and keep everyone safe while you handle a biting incident?
