Assignment 2b

Because parents are often unaware of the developmental nature of biting, they will sometimes pressure you to take steps that are not in the best interest of the child who does the biting.

**Telling the Parents**

**Parents of the Victim**

★ Respect the biter’s confidentiality. Avoid identifying the biter.
★ Describe the incident with nonemotional language. Help the parent of the victim to understand why children bite.
★ Explain what you did to comfort the child and to care for the wound.
★ Explain that a staff person will be staying close to the biter to prevent more incidents. Let the victim’s parents know any other steps that you are taking such as providing more toys, rearranging the room, etc.

**Parents of the Child Who Did the Biting**

★ Respect the victim’s confidentiality. Avoid identifying the child who was bitten.
★ Reassure the parent that biting is a normal occurrence in development. Help them to understand some possible causes of biting.
★ Explain to the parents that a staff person will be staying close to their child to help her express herself appropriately. Let the parents know any other steps that you are taking such as providing more toys, rearranging the room, etc.
★ Recommend that the parents be vigilant and use redirection at home. Help them to identify appropriate techniques to use at home if the problem occurs at home as well.
★ If there are circumstances at home such as changes, illness, separation or divorce, parent absences, or other factors that could contribute to the problem, help the parents address those issues as contributors to the child’s frustration and anger.
★ If the biting becomes chronic and your intervention is not successful, consider referral to a therapist.