

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Children do display, and occasionally will be exposed to, aggressive behavior. This may take the form of biting, hitting, pushing, spitting, or kicking. The staff uses various techniques to limit and correct such behavior, but parents need to understand that when children are in a group setting, the exposure to aggressive behavior is greater than it would be at home. The purpose of discipline is to help children learn acceptable behavior and to develop inner controls. When re-directing or guiding a child's behavior, the age, intellectual development, emotional make-up, and past experiences will be considered. Consistency is expected to be maintained when setting rules and limits for children. **Corporal punishment is not consistent with this objective and is prohibited!**

Some **alternate forms of discipline** are:

To model appropriate behavior.

Tell the child what he/she can and may do.

Establish eye contact with the child when talking to him/her.

Give the child choices whenever possible.

Encourage children to problem solve; work out conflicts when possible.

Re-direct child to another activity.

Physically hold a child until he/she can gain control of him/herself.

Remove the child from the situation.

Isolate the child from the group for brief periods of time, in a separate place that is supervised by a staff member, such as the Director or Program Assistant.

Call a parent to come for the child if he/she cannot regain control of his/her emotions.

LIMITS OF BEHAVIOR

You may not hurt others.

You may not hurt yourself.

You may not hurt equipment.

If a child is having more difficulty than usual with discipline in the classroom, the behaviors displayed will be discussed with the parents along with the specific techniques being used by the staff to help guide the child to more positive behavior. Since the children are in school only a few hours per day, support from parents with discipline at home and of our discipline at school is expected. Aggressive behaviors that are harmful to another child, to teachers, or to self, will be documented and signed by the parents.

Situations that continue to include harmful behaviors will be evaluated by the director in considering the safety of all children. The W.E.E. Care Committee will be consulted and involved in final decisions involving withdrawal of a child from the preschool if the child's behavior continues to be harmful to the child, other children, or staff.

ALL PARENTS MUST SIGN THE "PARENT'S AGREEMENT TO DISCIPLINE POLICY" FOUND ON THE CHILD'S APPLICATION