

BEACHWOOD NURSERY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline teaches children to develop self-control and to act in socially acceptable ways. It involves helping children **acknowledge** their **emotions**, control their **reactions** and **manage** their own behavior. It is setting limits; it is redirecting; it is guidance; it is teaching; it is encouragement. We believe that teaching and learning take place in a nurturing and warm environment and is based on the development of many different positive relationships among teachers and family members, between teachers and children and among peers. Positive relationships contribute to an atmosphere of trust, protection, and mutual respect that allows children to grow in the practice of cooperation, joint problem solving and acceptable social behavior. Nurturing positive relationships and creating a harmonious classroom can help to prevent behavior problems. Our methods of discipline are positive, and consistent with the age and developmental needs of children 2 1/2 to 6 years old.

Effective Guidance

1. Discipline includes planning, preventing problems, anticipating potential problems*
2. Modeling appropriate behavior is more effective than telling children how to behave*
3. Redirect inappropriate behaviors to a more constructive pursuit.*
4. Offer choices and allow age-appropriate decisions*
5. Explain the Reason for Rules routinely so that children understand *
6. Express warmth and empathy through physical touch, eye contact, tone of voice*
7. Encourage children's appropriate expression of emotions, both positive and negative*
8. Encourage children's expression of a problem in words so that they understand in terms of concrete action.
9. Encourage children to see that a problem has two points of view
10. Encourage children to come up with possible solutions to a problem.
11. Encourage children to put their solutions into practice
12. Before intervening, give children an opportunity to work out their struggles themselves if possible

Challenging Behavior: Teachers who successfully manage challenging behavior

1. **work** as a team with other teachers, administrators, family members, service providers to plan, implement and evaluate intervention.
2. **observe** children carefully to determine possible causes for difficult behavior. **Document ! ***
3. **teach** children new skills rather than focus on difficult behavior
4. **guide** and support children while working to manage their own behavior
5. **carefully** assess the design of the learning environment *
6. **use** quiet reminders of appropriate behaviors *

Aggressive Behavior:*

1. **STOP THE BEHAVIOR**
2. Give a reason for doing so (Children must understand why a behavior is unacceptable)
3. Suggest more acceptable ways for handling the situation.

Time Out

This is a temporary solution for handling a child who has lost control. Remove the child from the situation and give a reason for doing this. Allow time for the child to regain control in a quiet area. The teacher can then begin to discuss *what the child was feeling* and together discuss the appropriate behavior. Children should not be left alone, or in time-out any longer than a minute for each year of age.

Children learn from being exposed to a broad repertoire of possible actions and words, then from having the opportunity to try these out to see how they work. The attitudes and skills adults help children construct in the early years provide a foundation they will carry through life. **The key is understanding for adults and children alike.** Teachers evaluate and change their responses based on individual needs. Teachers vary their interactions to be sensitive and responsive to differing abilities, temperaments, activity levels, and cognitive and social development.

- * Teaching staff never use physical punishment such as shaking or hitting or psychological abuse
- * Teaching staff never use threats or derogatory remarks and never withhold nor threaten to withhold food or sleep as a form of discipline
- * Teaching staff do not discipline a child for a toilet accident & understand accidents are a natural part of child growth.
- * These methods of guidance & discipline are also applicable to children as young as 18 months.