

## **Behavior Guidance Policy**

We believe that children's misbehavior is an opportunity for teaching. Our goals are to help children develop self-control and to understand appropriate behaviors in different situations. We use the following steps to guide children's behavior.

- Help children know and understand limits for behavior and consistently implement limits.
- Recognize and comment on desirable behaviors.
- Teach social skills, problem-solving steps, and calm down routines as preventive measures.
- Overlook minor incidents that are not dangerous or disruptive, allowing children opportunities to use the problem-solving steps.
- When a situation requires adult assistance, help the child regain control of his/her emotions (if needed). Recognize the child's feelings and comfort the child. When the child is calm, identify the inappropriate behavior and how it is hurtful to the child, to others, and/or to the environment. Help the child think of appropriate behaviors that might have been used in that situation.
- Direct the child to a different activity, if necessary.
- Help the child calm down by briefly removing him/her from the group or activity where the inappropriate behavior occurred. Be sure the child understands why he/she is being removed. Identify the behavior that is expected when he returns to the group or activity. Stay nearby to monitor. When the appropriate behavior occurs, immediately recognize and comment.
- Briefly remove the child from the classroom under the supervision of a staff member, repeating the step above to teach, monitor, and recognize appropriate behavior.
- If a pattern of inappropriate behavior develops or if the child's behavior results in destruction of equipment or injury to self or others, a conference with the parents will be required. Working together, we can develop a plan of action that will provide the support and resources needed to help the child.
- There shall be no physical punishment or threat of physical punishment.
- Each child's dignity will be maintained. Incidents will be handled calmly and in a positive, supportive manner.

I have read and understand the discipline policy of the center. I give my permission for the center to use all strategies set out above.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_