

# Our Approach to Discipline

The staff uses positive techniques of guidance such as:

- redirection
- anticipation and elimination of potential problems
- positive reinforcement and encouragement
- setting clear limits that encourage children to develop self-control, self-discipline and a positive self-esteem

Good and appropriate behavior is praised. Consideration, patience, courtesy and helpfulness are modeled by the staff. Children are told clearly that hurting others is not acceptable. They are given specific words to use to express their feelings and are helped to say them. In property rights conflicts, children are given specific words to use and are helped to say them such as: "Can I have a turn when you're done?", "You can have it after I'm done.", "I'm still using it", "Now I want my turn", etc. In conflict situations, children are encouraged to be respectful listeners to their peers and teachers.

Consistent, clear rules are explained to children and understood by adults. Teachers try to refocus children from aimless or inappropriate activities to appropriate, constructive activities. Such redirection may include suggestions from the teacher, arranging materials for a constructive experience, or leading the child into a constructive play situation. We believe that this guidance encourages children to develop self-control, self-discipline, and a positive self-esteem.

The staff abstains from abusive and neglectful treatment and corporal punishment or other humiliating or frightening discipline techniques. Only when a child is in danger of hurting him/herself or other children would we physically restrain a child to keep him/her, as well as the other children in the class, safe. The removal of the child from the classroom to the office may be necessary after repeated warnings and until the child is able to regain self-composure/control. If the child is unable to regain self-control, his/her parent may be called to remove the child from the school for the remainder of that school day. The child would, of course, be welcome to return the following school day.

I have read and discussed the terms of the above discipline policy.

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_