



POSITIVE GUIDANCE POLICY

Young children crave consistency and structure. They thrive in an atmosphere where they are given plenty of choices and a few simple rules to follow. It is my belief that children need space and opportunity for play in order to interact with their friends. Our goal in guiding children is for them to move towards controlling their own behavior. We avoid using techniques that will damage the child's good feelings about themselves or others. We begin by arranging the environment to prevent discipline problems. This includes planning interesting activities, not asking children to be still for too long, and meeting their needs for food, rest, and active play.

When children do misbehave, we positively guide them in finding a better way to solve the problem. Because a very young child does not have the cognitive maturity and are very ego-centric, it can be very difficult for them if they do not get their way. Conflicts will arise. When they do we will guide children in a constructive manner. Because discipline is viewed as an opportunity to teach children better ways of handling their frustration and anger. Very young children will be redirected into other activities.

When misbehavior includes destroying or abusing materials, the children will be given the chance to use the materials again in an appropriate manner, but if continued the materials may be put away until another day when the child will be given another opportunity to use it appropriately. When children disrupt group activities, they can choose to participate without interrupting or choose another activity which would not interrupt the group time. Small and large group activities are always optional in all classrooms.

If your child has had a difficult time, the staff will give you a verbal or written note which summarizes your child's day. We will then work together with the family to assure consistency at home and at school in working with the child, and all will be discussed in a confidential manner that is respectful to your family.

Our Methods of Positive Guidance Include:

- Encouraging children to solve problems through the use of words
- Learning to acknowledge feelings and associate feelings with actions
- Redirect children to focus on a different activity in a positive manner
- Tell children what they can do, rather than what they can't do
- Continual focus on building self-help skills in order to strengthen self-esteem and positive self-image
- Positive reinforcement and acknowledging appropriate behavior that should be continued in the future
- Assisting children in planning actions and language for similar situations in the future
- Modeling kind, patient, and gentle actions, words and behavior