

St. Mary's Preschool
Discipline Policy
2019-2020

PHILOSOPHY:

Children cannot become self-disciplined unless adults teach them right from wrong. At St. Mary's Preschool, children will be taught the expectations for correct behavior and encouraged to live and act accordingly. When children know something is wrong, and choose to do it anyway, consequences will follow to communicate that the behavior is not acceptable and will not be tolerated in the school.

St. Mary's Preschool will utilize positive discipline and guidance techniques. The purpose of discipline is to help children develop self-control, and to teach children that each person is responsible for his own actions. Our goal is to help the children develop self-control and responsibility for their actions. Behavior guidance used by each teacher will be constructive, positive, and suited to the age of the child at all times.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES:

To prevent unacceptable behavior from occurring the teachers will:

- Model appropriate behavior
- Arrange the classroom environment to enhance the learning of acceptable behaviors
- Use descriptive praise when appropriate behavior occurs
- Encourage children to use their words when having a disagreement with another child. Facilitating children in their attempts to settle their own disputes
- Use redirection- substitute a positive activity for a negative one
- Use distraction- change the focus of the activity or behavior
- Separate child from the group- is used as a last resort, only when less intrusive methods have been tried and / or behavior the child is dangerous to himself or others. This time is not a punishment, but rather a time when the child may calm down, remember what behavior the teacher is requesting, and decide for him/ herself when he/ she is ready to rejoin the group with appropriate behavior. The time the child is removed from the group will be no longer than 1 minute per year of age.
* The use of any of the following is prohibited at all times: corporal punishment, threatened or actual withdrawal of food, use of the bathroom, abusive/ profane language, any form of private or public threats of physical punishment, or emotional abuse including shaming, rejecting, terrorizing, or isolation a child.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR:

Distracts from the full benefit of the preschool program

The following behaviors are considered disruptive:

- Requires constant attention from the teachers
- Inflict physical or emotional harm on other children, adults, or self
- Disrespects people and materials provided in the program
- Verbally threatens other students or teachers

*Discipline Procedures for disruptive behavior:

Disruptive behavior will be addressed in an incident report. This will be completed to document the behavior that directly impacts other children teachers, or the group as a whole. This report will be shared with parents/ guardians. It is to be signed by the teacher's parents/ guardian and the director. The report will be kept in the child's file.

If a child has difficulty managing his/her behavior on a recurring basis, the director will request a parent/ teacher conference.

If the child's behavior continues to be inappropriate, consistently disruptive, and / or dangerous, it may be necessary for the child to be sent home of the remainder of the day, aske to stay for a pre-determined number of days or dismissed from the Preschool.

BITING

If a child bites another child, parents of both children (biter and bitten) will be notified. The child can be dismissed from the program depending upon the severity of the bite, at the discretion of the staff and director. This is seriously considered when the health, safety and welfare of the child or that of another child is at risk.

CHILDREN WHO ENDANGER OTHER CHILDREN OR TEACHERS:

At St. Mary's Preschool one of our primary goals is to provide a safe, nurturing, and pleasant environment for all of the children we serve. We recognize that one of our jobs is to help children learn appropriate way to handle conflict. However, at times a child's behavior may endanger others. We want to ensure parents that we will address such behavior immediately following these guidelines:

- 1st Incident will be reported to the parents with an incident report and possibly a call from the director
- 2nd Incident will result in a parent/ teacher conference with the director to be held within 2 days of the incident to discuss the behavior and establish a plan of action
- 3rd Incident ill result in the parent/ guardian being called immediately to pick the child up from school. A conference with the director will be scheduled before the child can return to school to discuss the previous action plan and the possibility of referrals
- St. Mary's Preschool reserves the right to dismiss a child is any further incident occurs, or if we feel that any of the following conditions exists:
 - The Preschool cannot meet the child's needs
 - The parents are not able to work with the preschool to find an acceptable solution
 - The continuing behavior endangers the well-being of other children, and/ or the child engaging in the behavior

DISCIPLINE POLICY AGREEMENT

I have read, had the opportunity to ask questions, and understand the Preschool Discipline Policies and Procedures. I agree to comply with the discipline policies and procedures.

Parent/ Guardian	Parent/ Guardian	Date
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Print Child's Name	Preschool Director Signature
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