

Behavior Guidance Policies

It is Lake Harriet UM Preschool's policy that:

- each child will be provided with a positive model of acceptable behavior;
- behavior guidance will be tailored to the developmental level of the child involved;
- children and groups will be redirected away from problems toward constructive activity in order to reduce conflict;
- children will be taught how to use acceptable alternatives to problem behavior in order to reduce conflict;
- the safety of children and staff persons will be protected; and
- staff will provide immediate and directly related consequences for a child's unacceptable behavior.

Persistent Unacceptable Behavior

1. Persistent unacceptable behavior observed by staff will be documented in the child's and staff will continue to discuss, reason, redirect, and/or temporarily exclude child from an activity.
2. Staff will consult with the child's parent/guardian, other staff persons, and professionals when appropriate to develop a plan to help the child and teacher improve behavior.

Prohibited Actions

1. Subjection of a child to corporal punishment, which includes but is not limited to:
 - Rough handling
 - Shoving
 - Hair pulling
 - Ear pulling
 - Shaking
 - Slapping
 - Kicking
 - Biting
 - Pinching
 - Hitting
 - Spanking

2. Subjection of a child to emotional stress, which includes but is not limited to:
 - Name calling
 - Ostracism
 - Shaming
 - Making derogatory remarks about a child or the child's family
 - Using language that threatens, humiliates, or frightens the child
3. Separation of a child from the group except as provided under Separation From the Group (see below).
4. Punishments for lapses in toileting.
5. Withholding food, light, warmth, clothing, or medical care as a punishment for unacceptable behavior.
6. The use of physical restraint other than to physically hold a child where containment is necessary to protect a child or others from harm.
7. The use of mechanical restraints, such as tying.

Separation from the Group

No child may be separated from the group unless the following has occurred:

1. Less intrusive methods of guiding the child's behavior have been tried and were ineffective.
2. The child's behavior threatens the well being of the child or other children in the program.
3. A child who requires separation from the group must:
 - Remain within an unenclosed part of the classroom where the child can be continuously seen and heard by a staff person
 - The child's return to the group must be contingent on the child's stopping or bringing under control the behavior that precipitated the separation; and
 - The child must be returned to the group as soon as the behavior that precipitated the separation abates or stops.

Separation Report

All separations from the group must be noted on a daily log that will include the following:

- The child's name;
- The staff person's name;
- Time;
- Date;
- Information indicating what less intrusive methods were used to guide the child's behavior;
- How the child's behavior continued to threaten the well being of the child or other children in care;
- If a child is separated from the group three or more times in one day, the child's parent shall be notified and the parent notification shall be indicated on the daily log; and
- If a child is separated four or more times in one week, eight times or more in two weeks, the procedures under Persistent Unacceptable Behavior must be followed (see above).

Children with Mental Retardation or Related Conditions

For children with mental retardation or related conditions or children under the age of five, the standards governing the use of aversive and deprivation procedures in Minnesota Rules, parts 9525.2700 to 9525.2810 apply.