

River Forest Community Center

Positive Guidance & Discipline Policy

Our goal is to help children develop self-control, take responsibility for their behavior and understand the value of appropriate behavior. We encourage children to learn how to grow independently and make appropriate choices to manage and self-regulate their behavior.

The environment is designed to promote positive and enjoyable learning experiences for each child and emphasis is placed on the following as preventive measures to minimize issues or concerns:

- Room arrangement
- Choice of age appropriate materials and learning activities
- Consistent schedule and predictable routines
- Age appropriate expectations
- Positive staff-child interaction
- Active adult supervision.

Staff set clear, consistent, and reasonable limits and then follow through on enforcing these limits. We remind children of the expected behavior and use simple language to explain the reasons for these limits. To help achieve these goals, our staff utilizes supportive, positive guidance and discipline techniques which help children acknowledge their behavior, make choices about the solution and be responsible for consequences.

Specific positive guidance and discipline techniques include:

- Using redirection and distraction rather than negative reinforcement
- Changing the learning environment when it interferes with positive behavior
- Helping children verbalize their feelings and needs
- Using logical or natural consequences by stating the cause and effect of behavior and allowing the child to choose
- Modeling and teaching problem solving techniques

When a child's negative behavior involves frequent hitting, pushing, biting, or harm to himself or other children or equipment, the child shall be removed from the situation for problem solving, re-direction and/or quiet time alone. This technique differs from the punitive time-out by helping a child learn to regain control and learn socially appropriate ways to express strong emotions. Parents will be informed of recurring inappropriate behavior and the discipline measures used at the time. Staff may ask parents to discuss a problem behavior with the child at home.

The Community Center believes ongoing discussions between parents and staff are the most effective way to address a concern and will use this approach in order to develop a solution together. At times, the Community Center may consult with other professionals or identify other resources which may be beneficial for a child. If a reasonable solution cannot be reached, the Community Center reserves the right to make a determination regarding the dismissal of a child from the program. No adult (including a parent) may ever use corporal punishment or other frightening or humiliating disciplinary techniques in our program. **Under the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act [325 ILCS 5/4], RFCC staff is required to report to the child abuse hotline (1-800-25A-BUSE), whenever there is reasonable cause to believe that a child may be abused or neglected.**

This information is designed to provide an overview of the discipline guidelines and procedures to be used in the RFCC Early Childhood Program. No guidelines could ever be comprehensive enough to describe all situations or potential situations that could occur in the Early Childhood program. Any questions or issues regarding discipline that are not specifically addressed should be directed to the Early Childhood Director.

I have read and understand all of the information for the discipline procedures to be used in the RFCC Early Childhood program and agree to follow all stated guidelines and procedures.

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Signature

Teacher's Signature