

Methodist Preschool Discipline & Guidance Policy

Methodist Preschool staff will guide your child in a loving and Christian manner. Your child's teacher will show competency, good judgment, and self-control in guiding your child's development and meeting his/her individual needs.

Discipline must be:

- Individualized and consistent for each child;
- Appropriate to the child's level of understanding; and
- Directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-control.

A caregiver may only use positive methods of discipline and guidance that encourage self-esteem, self-control, and self-direction, which include at least the following:

- Using praise and encouragement of good behavior instead of focusing only upon unacceptable behavior
- Reminding a child of behavior expectations daily by using clear, positive statements;
- Apply rules consistently
- Set up the classroom environment to prevent behavior
- Redirecting behavior using positive statements
- Reason with and set limits for the children
- Talk with children in a calm, quiet manner
- Listen to the children and respect the children's needs, desires, and feelings
- Use storybooks and discussions to work through common conflicts
- Using brief supervised separation or time out from the group, when appropriate for the child's age and development, which is limited to no more than one minute per year of the child's age.

Harsh or physical punishment shall not be permitted. A caregiver may NOT:

- Inflict corporal punishment in any manner upon a child. (Corporal punishment is defined as the use of physical force to the body as a discipline measure. Physical force to the body includes, but is not limited to, spanking, hitting, shaking, biting, pinching, pushing, pulling, or slapping.)
- Use any strategy that embarrasses, hurts, shames, or belittles a child
- Use any strategy that threatens, intimidates, or forces a child
- Use food as a form of reward or punishment
- Use or withhold physical activity as a punishment
- Shame or punish a child if a bathroom accident occurs
- Compare children
- Place children in a locked and/or dark room
- Leave any child alone, unattended or without supervision
- Allow discipline of a child by other children
- Criticize, make fun of, or otherwise belittle a child's parents, families, or ethnic groups

Teachers will consult the director and the parents with unusual or difficult discipline problems. Conferences will be scheduled with parents if recurring disciplinary problems occur. If a child's

behavior consistently endangers the safety of the children around him/her, then the Director has the right, after meeting with the parents and documenting behavior problems and interventions, to terminate child care services for that particular child.