

FCC Preschool's Discipline Policy & Guidelines

The goal of discipline is to help the child develop inner controls so he/or she may move toward appropriate social behavior. (CT OEC) Our methods for resolving conflicts can be summarized as using positive guidance, setting clear limits and redirection.

1. We believe that positive reinforcement is the most effective and appropriate way to encourage discipline. We want to avoid a negative approach. The teachers will be intentional to know and understand each child so they will be able to anticipate any problems that may occur.
2. When disputes arise among children or between a child and teacher, the teacher will encourage a talking out process among those involved. The goal of this talking out process will be to acknowledge feelings and find solutions using children's ideas whenever possible. (CT OEC) We believe that listening to a child is an effective tool in preventing inappropriate behaviors and in understanding actions.
3. A child who may be overly aggressive or is repeatedly destructive of other children's work may be asked to make an activity choice in another area if talking things through has not resulted in better self-control. (CT OEC)
4. The teacher will continuously supervise children during disciplinary actions.
5. We will set limits and behavior expectations, which are developmentally appropriate, and will consistently, enforce these limits. Teachers will always follow through with the consequences that have been established for inappropriate action and will always praise and reward good behavior.
6. In rare occasions, a child may be placed in a "feel better" chair. The "feel better" chair will only be used as a last resort and only after several attempts of discussing the issue and giving the child opportunities to correct his/her behavior. Time away gives the child an opportunity to think about the situation and determine a better way to deal with the problem. Teachers will keep in mind that young children need to be helped with this thinking process and options should be discussed for it to be a productive experience. Gentle reminders and suggestions will be in order. During this time, the child will be told the reason for removal from the group. Finally, the child will always be in view of the staff.
7. When a child is offered a choice, the teachers are prepared to accept the choice. Children will always be treated with dignity and respect.
8. We will use loving, but firm tones, when disciplining a child. We believe that positive body language such as eye contact, speaking at their level and a gentle touch can be so helpful when guiding young children.
9. Children will also be given the opportunity to begin solving their own problems. It is important for children to resolve conflict with words.
10. If a situation persists, we will inform parents and ask them to work together with the teacher in an attempt for resolving the issue at hand. The use of the same techniques at home often helps provide a consistent atmosphere for the child to begin changing behaviors. (Teachers are encouraged to keep anecdotal records.) If the problem persists, the Director will be notified and a conference will be scheduled with parents, teachers and Director to develop a method for treatment.
11. We will never associate punishment with food or deny them of bathroom privileges.
12. We will never permit or tolerate verbal abuse of any child. We believe there is no place for hurtful criticism, ridiculing, threatening or frightening a child.
13. We will teach our children that mistakes are learning opportunities and not a cause to laugh or humiliate.
14. As a last alternative, if the situation continues and if the safety and well-being of the child or other children is in jeopardy, a consideration of removal from the group or from the school may be a necessary alternative.

I have heard Vickie's explanation and have read the Discipline Policy for First Church of Christ Preschool.

Parent's Signature: _____ Child's Name: _____

Date: _____