

Behavior and Discipline Policy

The best way to handle problems is to prevent them from happening in the first place. Therefore, the physical environments and programs for our preschool are set up so that as few problems as possible will take place. The rooms and materials are arranged so children can handle most things themselves. Children are not expected to perform beyond their abilities. Activities are age appropriate. Also, with children and adults within ratio guidelines, there is a great deal of interaction between them and consequently less inappropriate demand for attention and opportunities for problems to occur.

There are three situations in which more direct guidance may be needed:

- *when a child is in danger of hurting himself/herself
- *when he/she is about to hurt others
- *when he/she is hurting equipment or the environment.

In these cases, children are redirected in positive terms so that they understand not only what they cannot do but also what they can do instead. These limits are reinforced by a firm voice and if necessary, physical restraint. In extreme cases, if a child does not respond to these methods, he/she is removed from the situation and given some time by himself/herself with an adult nearby to help if needed. No adult will administer physical punishment.