



Discipline Policy for Early Childhood Programs at St. John School

St. John School seeks to teach attitudes by demonstrating and encouraging the kinds of attitudes that make for harmony, understanding and tolerance. It teaches control of impulses by clearly limiting and discouraging destructive behavior and by offering acceptable substitutes as well as opportunities for discussion. We hope to obtain these goals through the following steps:

Emphasize the positive behavior rather than the negative
Prevent discipline situations when possible
Increase the child's self-worth so that he/she feels stronger and in better control of himself/herself

The following steps are used in a discipline situation:

Verbal discussion with the child and redirection
Removing the child from an activity while keeping the child with the teacher
Wait for the child to make a decision to return to the activity
Help child return to the activity and be successful
Teach and help children practice new ways to interact with others to promote a positive outcome for all involved.

Consistent use of this approach proves to be effective in helping children gain self-control.

Preschool teachers do however allow a form of punishment when it is appropriate. This is simply permitting the child to experience the natural consequences of his/her behavior. Thus the child who pulls all the blocks off the shelf must help put them away. The child who writes on the walls or tables must help wash the walls or the tables before going to another activity. This allows young children the ability to see the fairness of punishment that fits their inappropriate activity so suitably and appreciate the justice of a consequence that stems logically from the action. It is not necessary to be unpleasant or moralistic when any of these situations transpire. It is the school's responsibility to only make certain that the child experience the logical outcome of his/her behavior.

In St. John School Early Childhood programs we believe that children, staff and parents should: -

feel safe all the time;
be able to talk about a fear or concern;
recognize that others have the right to feel safe with us.

We develop in school an understanding of feeling safe and we attempt to explore and promote behaviors which will contribute to a safe environment. We at St. John School are committed to provide a caring, friendly and safe environment for all children and their families so they can learn through play in a secure atmosphere.

Prevention by means of Good Practice

Teachers and staff will create an environment in which children feel safe by: -
planning activities appropriate for children;
providing sufficient work materials;
considering age and ability of children;
providing strategies for sharing
using language of sharing and caring;
taking time to explain the right and wrong ways of relating to their friends;
monitoring and evaluating situations;
promote positive behavior;
encourage respect for each other;
encourage respect for resources;
being aware of the different signs that children need a teacher to intervene on their behalf to keep them physically and/or emotionally safe.

Golden Rules

We strongly believe in the Golden Rules in St. John School. Not only for school, but also for life. We reinforce and follow them consistently throughout the school.

- We are gentle
- We are kind and helpful
- We listen
- We are honest
- We look after property
- We work hard

Any instances of challenging behavior will be addressed on an age appropriate level.