

Discipline and Guidance Policy

Discipline must be:

1. Individualized and consistent for each child;
2. Appropriate to the child's level of understanding; and
3. 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:

- (1) Using praise and encouragement of good behaviour instead of focusing only upon unacceptable behaviour;
- (2) Reminding a child of behaviour expectations daily by using clear, positive statements;
- (3) Redirecting behaviour using positive statements; and
- (4) 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.

There must be no harsh, cruel, or unusual treatment of any child. The following types of discipline and guidance are prohibited:

- (1) Corporal punishment or threats of corporal punishment;
- (2) Punishment associated with food, naps, or toilet training;
- (3) Pinching, shaking, or biting a child;
- (4) Hitting a child with a hand or instrument;
- (5) Putting anything in or on a child's mouth;
- (6) Humiliating, ridiculing, rejecting, or yelling at a child;
- (7) Subjecting a child to harsh, abusive, or profane language;
- (8) Placing a child in a locked or dark room, bathroom, or closet with the door closed; and
- (9) Requiring a child to remain silent or inactive for inappropriately long periods of time for the child's age.

The purpose of discipline in The Onionpatch Academy is to help children learn acceptable behavior, to express emotions appropriately and to develop inner control.

The Onionpatch Academy will use developmentally appropriate methods for guiding behavior, recognizing that all children are unique with individualized past experiences, preferences and concerns. Harsh voices, corporal or physical punishment, scolding, shaming, or ridiculing will never be used.

Parents should not be alarmed if their child exhibits new behaviors when joining a group of children. It is typical for children to try out new behaviors that they observe from their classmates. Of course, this takes the form of desirable and undesirable behaviors. It is important to treat these behaviors matter-of-factly while making it clear what is acceptable and unacceptable. In addition, increase in aggressive or passive behavior may emerge with some children when first adjusting to a new group of children. Through appropriate direction, the staff will guide these children towards more appropriate interactions. In the case of discipline of children with disabilities, special considerations and procedures will be employed. For more detailed information contact the Administrator.

The Onionpatch Academy staff will encourage the development of self-control through individualized appropriate methods described below:

- Arrange environment to reduce behavior difficulties
- Appropriate rules stated with explanation of reason
- Tell child what she/he can do, show or instruct appropriate behavior
- Give child choices when possible
- Recognize child's appropriate behavior
- Redirect child's behavior
- Use listening techniques to help child express feelings and solve problems
- Use logical consequences when appropriate
- Remove child from group or situation when child is not in control of own actions, until child is ready to rejoin class
- Physically hold child, if necessary, to prevent child from hurting self, others, or property

The Onionpatch Academy

Ad semper existo optimus (To ever be the best)