

Name of Facility: Little Thinkers

Discipline and Behavior Management Policy

Date Adopted 9/23/2014

Praise and positive reinforcement are effective methods of behavior management of children. When children receive positive, non-violent, and understanding interactions from adults and others, they develop good self-concepts, problem solving abilities, and self-discipline. Based on this belief of how children learn and develop values, this facility will practice the following discipline and behavior management policy:

We:

1. DO praise, reward, and encourage the children.
2. DO reason with and set limits for the children.
3. DO model appropriate behavior for the children.
4. DO modify the classroom environment to attempt to prevent problems before they occur.
5. DO listen to the children.
6. DO provide alternatives for inappropriate behavior to the children.
7. DO provide the children with natural and logical consequences of their behaviors.
8. DO treat the children as people and respect their needs, desires, and feelings.
9. DO ignore minor misbehaviors.
10. DO explain things to children on their levels.
11. DO stay consistent in our behavior management program.
12. DO use effective guidance and behavior management techniques that focus on a child's development.
13. DO use short supervised periods of time away sparingly.

We:

1. DO NOT spank, shake, bite, pinch, push, pull, slap, or otherwise physically punish the children.
2. DO NOT make fun of, yell at, threaten, make sarcastic remarks about, use profanity, or otherwise verbally abuse the children.
3. DO NOT shame or punish the children when bathroom accidents occur.
4. DO NOT deny food or rest as punishment.
5. DO NOT relate discipline to eating, resting, or sleeping.
6. DO NOT leave the children alone, unattended, or without supervision.
7. DO NOT place the children in locked rooms, closets, or boxes as punishment.
8. DO NOT allow discipline of children by children.
9. DO NOT criticize, make fun of, or otherwise belittle children's parents, families, or ethnic groups.

Our programs goals for helping children develop self-control and learn acceptable forms of social behavior are:

- Careful and meaningful planning
- Providing children with meaningful and intriguing activities
- Limiting "down time"
- Using guidance procedures such as "redirection" and "planned ignoring" to support children as they navigate the development of social relationships with peers and teachers
- Positive, supportive relationships between caregivers, children and the families

We help children resolve conflict and develop problem solving skills with peers by:

- Talking through disagreements
- Having the children come up with solutions together
- Having children explain what behaviors are “not nice” or unwelcomed to each other

We ensure staff follow the programs discipline and behavior management policies and practices and use behavior management strategies appropriately by:

- Being knowledgeable about developmentally appropriate practice
- Provide social and emotional support to the children
- Taking a proactive approach in daily practice to decrease and/or avoid possibly challenging behaviors
- Taking training class that promote social skills, preventing problem behaviors (through classroom arrangements, individualizing to children’s interests and abilities) and providing effective intervention strategies when needed

Local resources that can assist with services and support when persistent challenging behaviors continue to occur are:

- The Partnership for Children- Alamance County
- Any Resource and Referral agency
- The Division of Child Development

Director/Coordinator:

I, the undersigned facility director/operator (or other designated staff member) of Little Thinkers, do hereby state that I have given and discussed the facility's Discipline and Behavior Management Policy with the child’s parent or guardian.

Signature of Director/Operator _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian:

I, the undersigned parent or guardian of _____ (child's full name), do hereby state that I have read and received a copy of the facility's Discipline and Behavior Management Policy and that the facility's director/operator (or other designated staff member) has discussed the facility's Discipline and Behavior Management Policy with me.

Date of Child's Enrollment: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____