

Preschool Code of Conduct

We understand that all behaviors, positive and negative, have a function. Children exhibiting inappropriate behaviors are usually trying to escape something (i.e. an activity such as circle time) or to obtain something (i.e. a toy or attention from a classmate or teacher). It is important to our teaching staff that we determine the reason for a child's behavior so that we can teach an appropriate replacement skill to help the child get his/her desired result. As children seek to build relationships with each other, it is very normal for conflicts and hurt feelings to arise. The skills needed for resolving conflict effectively are complex. They involve managing feelings, communicating effectively, developing options, and making decisions. All caregivers, teachers, and families play a critical role in establishing positive guidance that teaches children the skills needed to resolve conflict effectively. We strive to ensure not only conflict resolution but lifelong skills for working with others are established.

Our early childhood teachers will take the time to speak with students about their feelings that led to the inappropriate behavior. Preschoolers will be encouraged to use their words to express their feelings and solve their problems. Staff will help students verbalize their feelings and facilitate conflict resolution and problem-solving when necessary.

Preschool staff use a variety of age-appropriate, research-based behavior intervention strategies including:

- Maintaining realistic expectations of children.
- Providing clear and simple limits.
- Preventive practices.
- Modeling appropriate behaviors.
- Positive redirection.
- Teaching of replacement skills.
- Conflict resolution /Problem-solving techniques.
- Providing logical and natural consequences for children's actions.

Preschool teaching staff strive to maintain consistent and open communication with families regarding the progress of their students. You may be notified of minor behavioral incidents in the following ways: email, telephone, written communication or in person. A disciplinary report will be required for more serious incidents. In this case, you may be asked to come in and discuss the incident with your child's teacher and the Supervisor of Preschool. The connection between home and school is very important, and children must understand that we are all communicating and working together.

Should a child's behavior become a consistent problem, the parents/guardians will be contacted to schedule a conference. Referral to the Preschool Intervention and Referral Team (PIRT) for further assistance and intervention strategies may be required.