

Discipline Policies of Ivy Hedge Early Childhood Learning Center  
2010-2011 School Year  
Your Children Are A Mirror Image Of You!

Children learn by watching and imitating. If you speak in a loud voice, the children will be loud. If you speak softly, you will find the children will respond in the same fashion. If you treat a child with respect, the child in turn will be respectful. Children need to be validated. Their feelings and ideas are important and should be treated that way.

Catch A Child Doing Something Good And Praise Him Or Her!

Children loved to be praised, even if it's for a small thing such as putting a toy away or wiping a table clean. If you make it important, the child will respond happily. Be generous with hugs and pats. Rewards can be given for good things the child has done such as being kind to another, helping someone or something of that nature. Try not to reward a child with sweets. Praise and appreciation or a simple "high five" work wonderfully.

First the Children Must Learn the Rules!

1. We are kind to our peers.
2. We keep our hands to ourselves.
3. We treat our toys with respect
4. We respect the work of other children.
5. We help clean up by putting our toys away where they were before we began to play.
6. We try to wait our turn when other children or teachers are talking.
7. We only run outside on the play yard. We walk inside our halls.

During the first weeks of school, the children will be exposed to these rules and our teachers will make every effort to encourage them to follow them. If or when a child breaks one of these rules, the teacher gently but firmly reminds him/her that they have broken the rule. This is done by getting down to their eye level, making sure there is eye contact, and telling them they cannot do XYZ. If the rule is broken more than once, the teacher will redirect the child or have him/her sit near her to do something like a puzzle or redirect the child to play with a different group of children. Our method is to rarely use a "time out". We have found if the teacher stops the behavior and talks firmly to the child each time it occurs, after about a week, the child just stops on his own. If we do have to use a "time out", it is always inside the classroom, near the teacher and only for two or three minutes. Often just sitting quietly for a few minutes will help settle down and calm a child.

If a child is a constant behavior problem and none of these methods seem to be working, the Director needs to be informed. Unfortunately, there is an occasional child who cannot adjust to school. A conference will then be set up with the teachers, the Director, and the parents so that they can all work together to alleviate the problem behavior. It is rare that a child is asked to leave the school but it is possible. This would occur if we feel that a particular child is a threat or dangerous to other children in our care.

I have read and understand the discipline policies at Ivy Hedge.

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Name of Child

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Signature of Parent