

## Child Behavior Management Policy

Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool believes that all children should experience success and be treated with respect and love. We strive for a classroom and playground environment that provides children with opportunities to explore the world around them within consistent, age-appropriate limits. In this atmosphere, most behavioral issues are prevented. It is our goal that each child entrusted to our care be allowed and encouraged to understand and believe that he/she is good with the ultimate goal that each child develops the most positive self-concept possible.

Many behaviors considered by adult standards as inappropriate are necessary phases of child development; however, if behavioral issues occur, our philosophy is to help children (1) learn good values and problem-solving skills and (2) take responsibility for their choices. By using the following behavior guidance techniques, we strive to minimize inappropriate behavior while creating a positive environment for each child.

**1. Classroom Management:** Teachers will manage classrooms by:

- Modeling and reinforcing appropriate behavior through appropriate praise.
- Maintaining constant supervision.
- Setting reasonable expectations for each child's behavior based on his developmental levels and individual difference.
- Becoming familiar with each child's unique needs.
- Providing interesting, challenging, and age-appropriate activities.

**2. Redirection/Distraction:** We offer alternatives to children engaged in undesirable or inappropriate behavior by offering a different toy, suggesting a new activity, engaging the child in an activity with a teacher or another child, or by suggesting independent play.

**3. Verbal Intervention:** The teacher explains to the child the inappropriate behavior and shows them the appropriate way to handle the situation. For example, a teacher might say, "Use your words," and the teacher can model what the child might say. "Instead of hitting, say 'I'm angry because you took my doll.'"

**4. Ignoring:** The behavior can often be stopped when they do not get the attention desired. We use this technique unless a safety issue arises.

**5. Logical Consequences:** Here, the teacher helps the child understand the logical consequences of their actions by removing an object, activity, etc. that is causing the problem. For example, if a child uses blocks to hit other children, the consequence is to remove the child from the block area.

### Guidelines for the STEP Program

The STEP Program is used for (1) any inappropriate behavior which continues after the progressive guidance steps have been used; (2) any behavior which threatens the health or safety of other children or staff; or (3) a continuous inability to conform to the rules and guidelines of the program.

### WPPP will use the following sequence of procedures:

1. We will observe and record the child's inappropriate behavior.
2. We will document what we have done to try to change the behavior.
3. If inappropriate behavior continues, parents of the child will be asked to participate in an immediate parent-teacher conference. Children old enough to understand this conference will be invited to attend. A specific action plan will be developed at this conference to address the behavior. The action plan will outline all steps the staff will take to address and change the behavior, and the steps the parents will take to address and change the behavior, as well. Finally, if the behavior persists, the action plan will outline the steps the staff and the parents will take toward finding another program.
4. The Preschool Director may, but is not required to, suggest outside resources to parents and we will work with an outside resource for further guidance in responding to the child's behavior.
5. If the inappropriate behavior persists, WPPP will request that the parent find another program.

### Guidelines for Immediate Dismissal of Child

Certain behaviors may cause a significant risk of harm to the health and safety of other children or staff. For example, (1) a physical assault which results in serious bodily injury, (2) an attempted physical assault which, if completed, would result in serious bodily injury, (3) setting or attempting to set fires, (4) bringing weapons to the preschool, (5) substantial damage to real or personal property, etc.

WPPP may immediately dismiss a child from the program whose behavior creates a significant risk of harm to the health

and safety of staff or other children without following the guidance steps outlined above.

**Our policy does not permit the use of the following forms of discipline:**

- Corporal punishment
- Emotional punishment, including ridicule, embarrassment, or humiliation
- Punishment for lapses in toilet training habits
- Withholding food, light, warmth, clothing, or medical care
- Physical restraint, other than the restraint necessary to protect the child or other staff or children from physical harm

*I have read and understand the Child Behavior Management Policy.*

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Parent's Signature

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Date

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Parent's Signature

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Date