

Chatham School House Discipline Policy

Discipline does not mean punishment, discipline is teaching a child how to be safe and know the difference between right and wrong through the on going process of helping children to develop self- control for self-management while protecting and maintaining the integrity of the child.

A. The staff will use methods of guidance and discipline that shall:

1. Be positive;
2. Be consistent with the age and developmental needs of the children;
3. Lead to the child's ability to develop and maintain self control; and
4. Encourage self- expression and self- direction.

B. Positive discipline shall include the following:

1. Communicate to children using positive statements;
2. Encourage children with adult support, to use their own words and solutions in order to resolve their own interpersonal conflicts;
3. Communicate with children by getting down to their eye level and talking to them in a calm quiet manner about what behavior is expected;
4. Distraction: Change the child's focus to an acceptable activity without confronting the inappropriate behavior; and
5. Redirect: Anticipate problems and intervene beforehand with an appropriate solution.

Children may be removed from a group activity to another area, provided that the child removed is either under the supervision of another staff member or continuously visible to a staff member.

Our staff is trained to be consistent and nurturing towards each child. Reasonable expectations help to keep conflicts to minimum. Disciplinary action is rarely required when child are kept in a stimulated, nurturing and creative environment.

C. Staff shall not associate disciplinary action or rewards with rest, food, or toileting. Chatham School House will not permit or tolerate the use of any abusive disciplinary methods such as:

1. Hitting, shaking, or any other form of corporal punishment;
2. Abusive language, ridicule, harsh, humiliating or frightening treatment, or any other form of emotional punishment;
3. Withhold from children food, emotional responses, stimulation, or the opportunities for rest or sleep; and
4. Require a child to remain silent or inactive for an inappropriately long period of time.

D. Discipline documentation must be distributed to every staff member and be posted in a prominent location within the center.

Child's Name _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____