

## DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT POLICY

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Positive reinforcement, redirection, and modeling 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, Montessori Footprints Learning Center will practice the following discipline and behavior management policy:

- We stay consistent in our behavior management program.
  - We listen to the children.
  - We offer positive suggestions and encouragements to the children.
  - We reason with and set limits for the children.
  - We provide the children with natural and logical consequences of their behaviors.
  - We explain things to children on their levels.
  - We redirect inappropriate behavior.
  - We modify the classroom environment to attempt to prevent problems before they occur.
  - We accept minor misbehaviors.
  - We supervise children at all times.
  - We do not spank, shake, bite, pinch, push, pull, slap, or otherwise physically punish the children.
  - We do not make fun of, yell at, threaten, make sarcastic remarks about, use profanity towards, or otherwise verbally abuse the children.
  - We do not relate discipline to eating, resting, or sleeping.
  - We do not shame or punish children when bathroom accidents occur.
  - We do not place children in locked rooms, closets, or boxes as punishment.
  - We do not criticize, make fun of, or otherwise belittle children's parents, families, or ethnic groups.
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Montessori Footprints Learning Center strives to provide an environment that encourages the development of a positive self-esteem in all of the children in our care. Our teachers will communicate with children in a respectful way without harsh tone or negativity. We do not use "time-out" unless absolutely necessary. We limit our use of statements such as "no", "don't", "stop", and similar phrases as they convey a simple punishment rather than a way for the child to understand and develop from their behavior. Instead, we use positive, simple statements to guide children's behavior.

When a child's behavior and level of control indicate that he/she needs help, the teacher may require the child to leave the situation. This "time-out" may be used if a child is upset, frustrated, or is out of control. This method is only used to assist a child in calming down, gaining control, and to refocus their energies; it is not used as a punishment.

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I, the undersigned parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby state I have read and received a copy of Montessori Footprints Learning Center's Discipline and Behavior Management Policy and that the facility's director or a designated staff member has discussed the policy with me.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Enrollment Date