

Sweet Clover School

Discipline Policy

School Expectations of Students & Guidance Procedures

We believe that there is no “wrong” behavior, just behavior that is out of it’s right time, place, and intensity. It is our goal to guide the children through direct modeling and engaging the imagination toward a better understanding of positive and harmonious behavior and to awaken their awareness that their choices can either contribute to, or detract from, the group harmony. For example, there is absolutely nothing *wrong* with wanting to speak with a friend; in fact, friendship is something to be cherished! However, speaking to a friend in the middle of a story or ring time may not be the best *time* or *place* to do so. Part of our task as educators is to help children appreciate when to engage and when to refrain; and how to bring the correct level of intensity to each situation. All of the redirection, guidance and correction in the classroom are .built around this idea

Our Guidance/Discipline Philosophy:

Respectful, Calm & Clear Communication

Keep it simple, not too many words. Use simple, basic imaginations and metaphors to get your point across and avoid over-intellectualizing.

Encouraging Messages

Remember to tell children what they CAN do as an alternative to what they are not allowed to do. Also, take note when their behavior is exceptionally pleasing or helpful. Try to avoid empty praise but specific encouragement is excellent.

Model Problem Solving Skills and Corrective Behavior

Children in early childhood operate out of the mode of imitation. Modeling for them how to navigate through situations that they have not yet developed the “know how” for is far more effective than talking to them about what to do.

MODEL – REMOVE – REDEEM – REINTRODUCE

Natural and Logical Consequences

Avoid non-related consequences, ie. taking away a toy for hitting their sibling. Instead choose consequences that correlate to the child’s misdeed, ie. for hitting the child may become ‘the doctor’ to heal the injured, to fix what has been broken or rest when the ears must be too tired to work right.

Clear, Immediate, Calm Action

