



Discipline Philosophy Overview

K-Prep's top priority is to provide a safe and friendly environment, where all children are encouraged to treat friends, teachers, and toys as they would like to be treated.

The best way to handle any behavior situation is by preventing it from happening in the first place.

We believe most behavior situations can be prevented by leading fun, entertaining activities with quick, consistent transitions. We feel “testing the limits” is normal for young children and setting consistent limits is important in their development. Redirection is used to show young toddlers where these limits are. We also often use positive direction with phrases such as “Feet on the floor”, “Hands on you”, and “Toys in your hands” to reinforce to children what they should be doing rather than what they should not be doing.

As children age and gain more experiences, natural and logical consequences are used to encourage children to take responsibility for their actions. We encourage the children to use words and manners when communicating with others. We also teach and model appropriate social behavior for the children, so they can learn to work problems out without direct teacher interaction. Time out is enforced when it is necessary for a child to take a break from an activity. We believe giving children choices allows them to feel in control and confident in themselves and their experiences.

Steps to effective discipline:

1. Creating an engaging classroom with positive teacher-student relationships
2. Teach and Model appropriate behavior
3. Redirection/Positive Direction when misbehavior appears
4. Allow child to make independent choice
5. Allow for a natural or logical consequence
6. Encourage taking a break from an activity
7. Discussion after action, *if needed*

When correcting a child, a firm voice may be necessary, as young children learn language through tone of voice. However, after each situation, teachers can discuss with the child the details of the situation. They may discuss if it was a satisfactory method, or if another option would have been better. The teacher should kneel to the child's eye level and use a quiet, caring voice. The child should be calm, looking at the teacher and be involved in the conversation. If more than one child is involved, the teacher should model appropriate problem solving and encourage the children to talk to one another. Children are always encouraged to use words when handling any situation. Successful conversations happen when all involved are *calm*.

Discipline methods that are NOT tolerated:

- Yelling or shouting
- Connecting discipline to food, rest, or toileting
- Any form of verbal abuse
- Physical punishment