



Discipline Policy

Country Village Preschool is committed to the well-being of each and every child in its care. As part of that commitment, it establishes a certain code of conduct for children (and parents) to follow, and does its best to provide a safe, loving, and stimulating environment for all.

When it comes to shaping and guiding student behavior, the school believes in methods of discipline that are both respectful and reasonable, and to which parents, teachers, and administrators are included as cooperative agents. At Country Village, discipline's goal is to work together to teach children to learn from their mistakes rather than to make them suffer for them. It is proactive, emphasizes nurturing and guiding students over punishing them, and is intended as a positive means with which to teach children better self-control, inspire confidence, and foster maturity and growth.

In practice, teachers will employ a variety of different disciplinary actions depending on, and as befitting, the age of the child and the situation at hand. Some of the more common techniques teachers may use include ignoring (or not 'feeding into') certain negative behaviors, redirection, verbal intervention, and/or the introduction of choice and consequence (time-out, etc.). But, whatever the method, all are aimed at addressing the present situation, preventing future misbehavior, and providing children with the guidance needed to make better decisions over time.

When disciplining a child, a teacher will:

- Focus on – and emphasize – what the child needs to do “right” in the future, and NOT simply focus on what the child has done “wrong” at present;
- Relate the consequences of the child’s actions directly to the conduct at hand, and NOT administer arbitrary penalties or restrictions that have nothing at all to do with the misbehavior;
- Help the child to accept the natural or logical consequences of his/her misbehavior, and NOT be driven by a need to “get the child back” or make the child “pay” for his or her actions; and

- Teach the child to develop self-discipline and learn the value of becoming responsible for his or her conduct, and NOT send the message that being “good” is simply a matter of not getting caught.

When and if a teacher or administrator ever becomes concerned with a child’s behavior, a Parent/Teacher conference will be called for the purpose of coming together as Home and School to collaborate on the problem(s) at hand. Should a child’s behavior fail to improve over time, or should that behavior become overly distracting to the rest of the group, dangerous, or threatening, that child’s enrollment may be terminated.



All employees at Country Village Preschool are asked to go beyond licensing requirements and take an additional 5 hours (minimum) of training through The Department of Children and Families on Basic Guidance and Discipline, and all are clearly informed that:

- Children shall not be subjected to discipline that is severe, humiliating, or frightening;
- Discipline shall not be associated with food, rest, or toileting;
- Spanking or any other form of physical punishment is prohibited; and
- Children shall NOT be denied active play as a result of misbehavior.

Step-By-Step Illustration

When a child is misbehaving, the intervening teacher will:

1. **Acknowledge the misbehavior, but base the interaction on what the child should be doing.**

“When we work with our puzzles, we keep all of the pieces on our mat so that we don’t lose any.” (NOT: “Stop flicking the puzzle pieces across the floor already, punk!”)

2. **Further identify/isolate the unwanted behavior through a choice to the child. (Choice/consequence should relate to the misbehavior.)**

“You can keep your puzzle pieces on your mat and continue working with this lesson, or you can put everything away and sit by my side until I feel you are ready to try another activity.”

3. **Follow-through on the student’s choice.**

“I see you are still tossing puzzle pieces across the floor. That means you have chosen to put everything away and will now have to sit at my side and watch as everyone else continues to work with their lessons. I will let you know when I feel you are ready to work on your own again.”

4. **Repeat steps 2 & 3 with escalating choices/consequences.**

“I have not yet decided that you are ready to work on your own again. You need to remain at my side or you will have to give up some free time for the time you are playing now.”

Choices/consequences should build as follows:

- a. *having to give-up a particular item/put it away,*
- b. *losing access to an identified classroom activity,*
- c. *taking a visit to the thinking chair,*
- d. *having to remain at the teacher’s side/shadowing, and/or*
- e. *having to give up a determined amount of free time.*

5. **Involve the school Director. The Director’s involvement is reserved for cases of severe misbehavior (such as those that involve destruction of property and/or conduct that is – or may be – injurious to another), and may result in the school calling for a Parent Conference to help address the situation.**

At all times, Country Village reserves the right to cancel the enrollment of a child for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Aggressive behavior toward – or other physical and/or verbal abuse of – another;
- Use of inappropriate language, tone, or volume; condescending, demeaning, or debasing conduct; and/or any other generally disrespectful behavior when in conversation with the school’s Director and/or Administrative personnel, teachers or support staff, or students.

Country Village Preschool is a community where children and adults are expected to share in polite and respectful discourse as they work together for the common good. Actions, behavior, or conduct that impedes that work will not be tolerated.