

CHILDREN'S DISCIPLINE POLICY 2019

Discipline and Classroom Management

"Discipline" comes from the root word "disciple", which means "training that molds character, behavior and values". We want to shape disciples of Jesus by managing children's behavior. Therefore, discipline is primarily positive. Those who work with children will be quick to encourage and affirm positive behavior. We also encourage immediate and consistent responses to negative behavior so that it does not become a serious problem. If parents are present we will expect them to discipline their children when they misbehave. When parents are not present, we will first speak to the child and issue a warning. If the child chooses to continue the unacceptable behavior, they may be denied a privilege or isolated from the group for a time. If the child continues to display unacceptable behavior after the timeout, volunteers will contact the child's parents and the child will be removed from the class room. Children's Ministry volunteers will not employ any form of physical correction. They are permitted to gently restrain a child to keep the child from hurting themselves or others.

Hebrews 12:7-11 tells us that discipline, though sometimes painful, produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those trained by it. It also tells us discipline should be born out of love and not be intended solely as punishment or behavioral control. It should be a growth mechanism through which we receive necessary correction, guidance, training and molding of character.

Classroom Rules

1. Obey the teacher
2. Listen
3. Be kind
4. Be safe
5. Keep your hands and feet to your self

Playscape Rules

1. No running
2. No screaming

Corrective Actions (3 Strike Rule)

1. Handle situations individually as much as possible.
2. Give a warning when a child fails to follow the rules **(Strike 1)**
3. Remind the child of the rules
4. Explain why the behavior is unacceptable
5. Redirect the child to something positive
6. Explain the consequences of unacceptable behavior by describing the correct way to behave.

3. No climbing up the slide

4. Obey the teacher(s)

5. Have Fun

Preventative Actions

1. Create a loving, caring atmosphere
2. Establish and communicate realistic expectations
3. Focus on positive actions
4. Be fair and consistent

7. If a child repeats the action, guide him/her to a quiet place separate from the other children for a short, but designated period of time. **(Strike 2)**

8. After a third time, the children's parents will be notified and be removed from the classroom. **(Strike 3)**

Aggressive Behavior

1. Biting, punching, kicking, or scratching are considered aggressive behaviors and will be addressed promptly.

2. If a child displays any of these behaviors, he or she will be immediately removed from the class and the parents will be notified.

Repeated Removal From Class

After the first offense, the parent will be encouraged to deliver consequences at home, and should be encouraged to return the following week for class

If a removal occurs a second time within a quarter, the child's participation will be suspended until the parent can discuss their child's behavior with church leadership. A plan will be established for the child's future conduct.

If a removal occurs a third time within a quarter, the child will not be allowed to re-enter unless an evaluation by church leadership determines that the child will no longer be a disturbance in the classroom.

Expectations of Children

Our expectations of children are built on the foundation of respect. Although specific rules may vary depending on the program, class, or activity, all expectations/rules are based on the following 4 goals for our children.

1. **Respect for God's Word** - Children will be expected to show respect to God's Word as the final authority on behavior. This includes respecting God and treating Him as worthy of the highest praise. Using God's name without respect will not be tolerated.
2. **Respect for Adults** - We want our children to honor their teachers and all adults with respectful speech and behavior. Sassing or defying instruction are examples of disrespectful behavior. As a sign of respect we also encourage our children to address adults as Mr., Mrs., or Miss. All Children's Ministry Volunteers will have nametags to help children know their teachers names.
3. **Respect for Others** - Jesus told us to treat others the way we would like to be treated (Matt. 7:12). It is our desire to provide a safe environment for all our children. Children will be encouraged to treat each other with kindness and humility. Children will be encouraged to think before they speak and to find encouraging words to speak to each other. Mean, crude, or hurtful speech or actions are therefore not acceptable.
4. **Respect for Themselves** - We will encourage children not to act in ways that will put their bodies or their faith at risk.