

# Guidance and Discipline Policy

## Oakton Community College Early Childhood Education Center

The Early Childhood Education Center's guidance and discipline policy is based on the belief that young children must experience trust and respect in order to build essential lifelong social and emotional skills. To move children gradually toward self-discipline, teachers create a positive environment that reflects the way children see the world, demonstrating respect and conveying appropriate behavioral expectations. Teachers recognize that every child learns to master group interaction at his or her own pace, and any conflicts that arise are seen as part of a natural process.

Our goals include helping children develop healthy self-esteem, learn to manage feelings and impulses, build satisfying social relationships, and strengthen communication and problem-solving skills.

Techniques used in the classroom to foster guidance include:

- Establishing clear, simple, and consistent rules
- Modeling appropriate behavior for children
- Assisting in interactions with and among children
- Fostering communication and negotiation skills in children

Techniques will vary, depending on the situation, the child, and the needs of the group. It is important not only to help children cope with day-to-day events, but also to build skills that will carry them successfully through their lives.

Most children respond favorably to such guidance, and develop the appropriate and necessary skills to deal with ongoing interpersonal situations. Our goal is to ensure that each child has a successful early school experience. We recognize that no single technique is always effective, and that different techniques work with different children. Occasionally, a young child in a group setting needs additional support to master reasonable social skills. In the event that a child is having continual difficulty in managing his/her behavior, even with the support and redirection of teachers, families will be asked to attend a meeting with teachers, administrative staff, and possibly consultants. The goal of this meeting is to develop strategies in partnership that will provide the necessary support to assist the child's continued social success. Every realistic effort will be made to help the child overcome challenges that interfere with his/her ability to effectively participate in the group setting.

We reserve the right to determine the appropriateness of the classroom environment for each child in the Center. Under all circumstances, family input will be an essential component of this process. If inappropriate behavior persists, staff may recommend alternative programs for a child.

I have read and agree to follow the Guidance and Discipline Policy as stated above.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please print*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

