

Discovery Developmental Center Child Guidance Policy

Discovery Developmental Center is committed to serving the developmental needs of all children while promoting the common good of all. Keeping within this spirit, we teach the following expectations to all children:

Be Safe	We walk inside. We wear shoes in the building. We wait for adults to open doors.
Be Respectful	We are kind to, and respect each other and the environment that we live in.
Be Responsible	We use quiet voices inside the building. We clean-up our messes.
Be a Learner	We listen to adults and follow directions. We use materials appropriately.

Child management techniques focus on getting to know each child as an individual and preparing the environment so as to prevent conflict as well as teach appropriate behaviors in the school setting. To help children learn to manage their own behavior, we use positive discipline techniques including redirection, positive reinforcement, and acknowledgement for a child's efforts. Children are encouraged to talk about their feelings and ideas. Helping children identify and describe their feelings about another person or situation helps them recognize their emotions and become more empathetic.

Recognizing that child guidance is a collaborative effort between staff and family members, Discovery has developed a list of responsibilities to help ensure good communications and outcomes for the child.

Discovery Responsibilities / Positive Behavior Supports

- Use positive discipline strategies such as redirection, natural consequences, and "2 choice" options.
- Intentionally teach (and re-teach as needed) expectations of behavior through lessons and social stories.
- Maintain visual schedules so children understand daily routines and expected behaviors of each.
- Maintain ratios that allow for good supervision.
- Help children develop coping skills and find success in a group setting.
- Recognize that families are a child's first teacher and know their child best.
- Be consistently proactive about sharing challenges children are having in the center with their family and other support team members.

Family Responsibilities / Collaborative Relationships & Interactions

- Check-in with staff upon arrival and at departure times to share information about your child's mood. Often times challenging behaviors occur due to lack of sleep, busy family lives, missed meals, and recent changes in the family (ie: a parent has started traveling during the school week.) This information helps us be proactive in ensuring your child's needs are met BEFORE problems occur.
- Take advantage of opportunities to talk with staff about your child's developing person. Be honest about strengths and challenges for productive goal-setting.
- Participate in developing behavior plans with teaching staff as needed.
- Be realistic about expectations for your child, and respectful about other children's goals and behaviors within the group setting.
- Respect staff time, energy, and experience and be a willing partner.

Challenging Behaviors or Mistaken Behaviors (Gartrell, 2017.)

Children who present persistent, serious challenging behavior (any repeated pattern of behavior that interferes with learning or engagement in pro-social interactions with peers and adults), often require more intensive interventions than simple redirection or natural consequences. Challenging behaviors might include excessive or frequent hitting, kicking, tantrums, biting, screaming, running away, or other forms of aggression. Teaching staff, families, and other professionals must then work together as a team to develop and implement an individualized plan that supports the child's inclusion and success. Steps that might be taken in these meetings include:

- Gather information to determine potential reasons for the behavior (functional assessment)
- Develop strategies for home and center - including positive behavior supports and visuals - that might prevent behaviors and teach replacement skills.

We realize that, despite such efforts, there are children with behaviors more challenging than what DDC program resources can accommodate without outside support. Not all children will thrive in this larger environment during their early years. Under these circumstances, DDC Director and staff will work with families to find additional services, resources, and/or a more appropriate placement. We reserve the right to disenroll a child in cases where:

- We believe a child's pattern of behavior can no longer be supported in our setting.
- There is no family support for creating / following through with behavior plans.
- The safety of other children is at risk.
- The morale of the staff is endangered.

Prohibited Behaviors

The following behaviors are prohibited at Discovery:

- Any form of physical punishment, including hitting, pinching, spanking, and any other acts designed to inflict pain or instill fear.
- Any form of psychological or emotional abuse, including abusive or profane language, shaming, ridiculing, rejecting, terrorizing or isolating the child.
- Coercion, including rough handling like shoving or pulling; threatened or actual removal of food, rest, or use of the bathroom; or aggressive restraints that force a child to sit or lay down.

Acknowledgment: I have received a copy of Discovery's Child Guidance Policy and agree to work with center staff to help my child be successful here and at home.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name

Would you like a copy of this document for your file? Yes_____ No_____