

BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT POLICY

AIM: Children have the right to be kept safe at all times. The Children's House Montessori School staff has a responsibility to ensure that children are safe at all times.

RATIONALE: In order for our children to feel safe, secure and to know the limits on their behaviour, we as staff must ensure children experience a consistent approach from us all.

It is important that this be achieved within an environment that enhances a child's feelings about themselves, fostering self-esteem and self worth.

PURPOSE:

- a) To give clear guidelines on appropriate and inappropriate practices for adults working with children in our centre.
- b) To identify the procedure to deal with any children whose behaviour is a concern.
- c) To ensure that staff identify, report, support and are educated within the Preschool regarding child abuse, in order to keep children safe.
- d) To ensure that no child abuse takes place at the Preschool between children or adults and children.

GUIDELINES:

- 1) Children will be educated safely, including their right to say no to unwelcome behaviour, and in the need to care for their own body. Books will be made available for this purpose as well as other resources where appropriate.
- 2) No adult will do for a child what he is capable of doing for himself. Children will be encouraged to care for their own bodies.
- 3) Adults will always ask permission of children before removing clothing.
- 4) This service encourages its staff to keep their personal and private lives separate. It discourages close personal relationships and/or care taking activities with children and families outside the work environment.
- 5) Where the child's health and well being is endangered or a child is endangering the health and well being of another child the teacher may call out to alert the child if she feels she cannot physically reach the child promptly.
- 6) Praise and encouragement are to be given to promote appropriate behaviour.
- 7) Teachers are to respect children's preferences and involve children in decisions about their participation in activities.
- 8) Teachers are to model and promote non-discriminatory behaviour.

- 9) Teachers are required to treat children with respect and dignity at all times and to be clear and consistent in their expectations and action. No child is to be neglected.
- 10) Corporal punishment is not permitted, as are practices such as solitary confinement, deprivation of food, drink, warmth and shelter. No child will be restrained. Our school does not sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons, including parents, to enforce discipline either at school or at home.
- 11) Verbal abuse is prohibited.
- 12) Use of negative commands should be limited.
- 13) Children should initiate all physical contact.
- 14) Teachers will not label or judge children.
- 15) Teachers will not engage in power struggles with children.
- 16) Teachers need to understand and acknowledge that some behaviour goals applied in the centre may differ from those of the child's home environment.
- 17) Where any child's behaviour is a concern the Directress must be immediately informed.
- 18) Teachers must acknowledge and focus on the feelings behind a child's behaviour: how often, when, where, who is involved.
- 19) Teachers need to assess the child's knowledge about the effects of their behaviour: does the child know how to be socially acceptable.
- 20) We need to encourage and identify co-operative behaviour that brings results such as giving and taking and being friendly.
- 21) In cases of biting, pushing, hitting, teachers must intervene quickly and sit between the two children. Discussion must occur to let the child know that it is inappropriate behaviour. We need to bite fruit not people. Hands are good tools not weapons. The child needs to say sorry to the child he has hurt. Then the child should be redirected to another activity.
- 22) We need to support the child to express feelings verbally where the situation that causes the emotions is beyond the child's control.

STRATEGIES: Children need to be observed at all times so pre-empted action can be taken to avert clashes between children.

There needs to be enough activities available to occupy all children in purposeful play.

Encourage a child's self discipline by giving both clear limits with brief explanations so the child knows why the limit has been set, and warnings about the consequences of his/her actions so that he or she is aware of what will happen if the negative behaviour continues.

Such consequences are in order of severity:

- The child will be redirected to an alternative activity.
- Non participation in certain activities.
- Parents will be informed and asked to take their child away for the day.

If the behaviour of a child warrants further action than the above measures, staff are to follow the procedures outlined in the Appropriate Behaviour Policy.