

Kootenai Kids
PRECHOOL

Discipline Philosophy

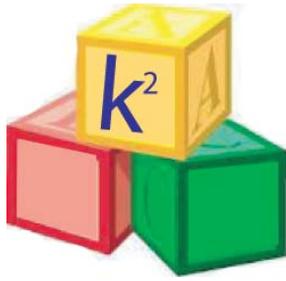
Preschool-aged children have a zest for life and learning and are bursting with energy. Such characteristics make working with this age group enjoyable and exciting, yet these qualities can also sometimes lead to disruptions and difficulties with behaviors.

We believe the primary goal of discipline is to help your child develop self-discipline and self-control. This discipline approach recognizes and values children. We believe your child should be treated with respect and balance his freedom with responsibilities. This is accomplished by setting limits, providing choices within those limits and using natural and logical consequences as the basis for discipline. Positive reinforcement and redirection allow our teachers to guide your child as he makes behavioral choices.

Your child will be encouraged to make decisions to learn that her choices count. She can make mistakes and learn from them. Your child has a sense of control and power in her life and is responsible for her actions. At all times, we strive for your child to develop compassion for other's feelings. It is our goal to eliminate conflict and replace it with cooperation and mutual respect. We believe this is a worthy and achievable goal.

Our teachers focus on each child's social/emotional development and plan experiences that assist them to learn the skills needed to regulate their emotions, behaviors and attention. We plan varied opportunities for your child to develop a sense of competence and a positive attitude towards entering into social groups, developing friendships, learning to help and other pro-social behaviors. Our teachers never use physical punishment, make derogatory remarks or engage in psychological abuse. We welcome discussions regarding preschool behavior and our parents input.

This discipline policy will help ensure that your child will have a meaningful experience at our preschool.



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Rules

We have created a list of rules that we expect your child to follow at Kootenai Kids Preschool. These rules include using inside voices, keeping hands and feet to self, wearing listening ears and being kind to others. These rules are written and displayed in the classrooms and include pictorial representations that illustrate each rule so your child can understand them.

Redirecting

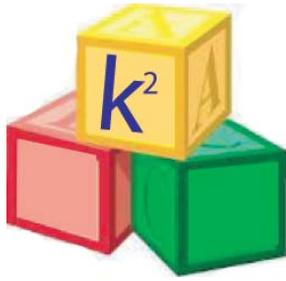
Our teachers will redirect the children when they are behaving inappropriately and are not following the rules. For example, if your child is not listening or paying attention, we call his name to grab his attention and welcome him back to the conversation or activity. Another example would be, if your child is speaking loudly, we will gently tap him on the shoulder and put our finger to our mouth to signal that your child should lower his voice.

Discussion

In the event that your child continues to not follow our rules and repeatedly acts out, a teacher will take her aside and have a talk. We gently discuss how and why your child's behavior is inappropriate and talk about ways that she can improve. We embrace talking about emotions and how appropriate behavior, in contrast to inappropriate behavior, makes one feel.

Recovery Time and contact home

If your child exhibits behavior issues or is continuously disrupting the class and all other approaches have failed, a recovery time may be warranted. If we issue recovery time, we will have a teacher sit with your child in another area of the classroom, or just outside the classroom. We will discuss the behavior with your child and allow your child to rejoin the group when she feels ready to follow the rules, with a recovery time duration that will not exceed 1 minute per child's age. If your child experiences a recovery time, we will contact you, the parents or guardians, to make you aware of the inappropriate behavior and to enlist your help in correcting the problem.



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Resolving conflict

When two or more children have a disagreement, each child explains their concerns to a teacher. Questions are asked of each child to clarify the situation. The teacher will define the expected and most appropriate behavior to each child. The children and teacher agree on new plan of action. The children are praised for their efforts.

Award System

We have a classroom award system that serves as positive reinforcement for proper behavior. For example, when the class is following the rules and exhibiting proper behavior, the teacher will award them a point or place a pebble in a jar. When the class receives a predetermined amount of points, or when the jar is full of pebbles, they will be offered a small reward; extra recess or small tokens, for example.