

Child Discipline Policy

Caterpillar Corner Childcare Center staff members are absolutely not permitted to use any form of physical punishment, including spanking. Staff members may not single out a child for ridicule, threaten harm to the child or the child's family, and may not specifically aim to degrade a child or a child's family. They may not use harsh, demeaning or abusive language in the presence of children. We use the following disciplinary techniques where they are age appropriate:

- Giving Choices
- Problem Solving
- Natural and Logical Consequences
- Ignoring
- Redirecting
- Time Out

Discipline does not mean punishment. Discipline is teaching a child how to be safe, how to behave on his/her own and how to know the difference between right and wrong. The staff will use praise and positive methods of discipline and guidance to encourage self-expression and self-direction of the children in the Center. The limits may be set at times in order to keep children from losing control or causing harm to themselves or others. Time Out is only one way to handle a situation and allows the child to regain control of his/her actions and feelings. Time away from the group will not exceed the following schedule. A timer will be used.

Toddlers	30 seconds to 2 minutes
Preschoolers	3 to 5 minutes
School-age	5 to 10 minutes

Positive ways to channel children's emotions and handling misbehavior include:

- Redirect negative behavior to an acceptable activity by gently encouraging the child to change activities.
- Ignore the behavior.
- Help children understand consequences to behavior.
- Limit choices.
- Use humor.

Remember we will never humiliate, frighten or abuse a child. We will respect their feelings and let them know whatever they are feeling is okay - but it is the way they express it that we want to help them control. Let the children know your feelings. We tell them we are not upset with them, but with their actions. We will communicate with the children and model positive behaviors for them to imitate. We will make sure what we are asking the child is appropriate for their developmental level. We will make sure all classroom rules are clear and understood at their level.

We will consult with parents since they know their child best. Emphasize the partnership between caregiver and parent in an attempt to defuse a tense situation involving a problem with the child's behavior.