

HOW IS DISCIPLINE HANDLED?

Respect for people and property is of utmost importance in a Montessori classroom. The child is taught to be courteous and respectful to both classmates and adults through grace and courtesy lessons. Many discipline problems can be prevented through very simple procedures:

- scheduling and structuring the day
- appropriate expectations of the children
- giving clear directions and asking the child to do only one thing at a time
- telling the children what to do, rather than what not to do (I.e. please walk)
- listening to the child and observing them
- redirecting the child before he makes a poor choice

Inappropriate behavior is discouraged through similar techniques:

- structuring the environment
- redirecting the child's behavior - perhaps repeatedly
- appropriate time out management (separating the child from others but with the care giver, in a positive way. This gives the child time to collect him/herself and discuss his/her actions. Time out periods should not be longer than the age of the child I.e. a three-year-old would get a three minute time out.) Time out should be used sparingly - it loses effectiveness if overused.
- following through - consistency is important
- immediate response to behavior

Negative discipline practices such as yelling, making threats, hitting and embarrassing or humiliating the child are not used:

- they do not teach the child what to do
- they do not change long term behavior, only behavior that will be observed by the disciplinarian or authority figure.
- may harm the relationship between the child and the caregiver

If your child exhibits extreme misbehavior, you may be called to come pick him or her up. Behavior which involves one child hurting another will not be tolerated and may result in suspension, considering the circumstances involved. The length of the suspension will be determined by the directress and shall be reasonable to fit the unacceptable behavior.

name (print)

date

signature