

Behavioral Protocol

Starting Blocks believes in a positive approach to discipline and is committed to providing an environment where children feel safe, comfortable and have a great time. Behavior management policies shall be followed in order to protect the safety of all children and staff. Staff shall ensure that each child is provided with a positive model of acceptable behavior. Children are encouraged to practice those skills that will allow them to resolve conflicts and have their needs met without the use of aggressive or destructive behaviors. This is seen as a means of preventing behavioral difficulties between children and lessens the need for corrective action taken by the staff.

When situations occur which require intervention, teachers should provide children with clear explanations as to why specific behavior is inappropriate and help them to find an alternative behavior that fits within classroom guidelines. These guidelines revolve around concerns for the safety of all children and for the materials within the center. Classroom rules shall be tailored to the developmental level of the children in attendance, be short and simple, be stated in a positive way and be used consistently.

-If a child is displaying persistent, unacceptable behavior, the staff will take steps to help the child gain self-control.

-A staff person will first attempt to help the child understand the gravity of the behavior. Staff will then re-direct the child to activities that hold the child's attention (the choice is made with the child).

-If the behavior continues, the staff member will consult with fellow staff members and/or the Director to develop alternatives for helping the child gain acceptable control of their behavior.

-If the problem persists, the staff member will contact the child's parent for suggestions on measures to take to extinguish the behavior. The parent will be informed that if the measures do not work, the child may have to be removed from the classroom and potentially the program.

-The goal is to help the child strengthen their skills of self-control. Separating the child from the group is a final step that would be taken after other measures have been tried.

-If the child cannot resort to behavior that ensures their own safety, and the safety of others, and/or the smooth operation of the classroom, the parent will then be called and asked to pick the child up from the school.