

Sacred Roots Early Learning

Student Conduct and Guidance Policy

2026-2027 School Year

Our Philosophy

At Sacred Roots, we believe that young children are learning how to navigate relationships, regulate their emotions, and express their needs. Challenging behaviors are opportunities for growth, not occasions for punishment. Our approach to guidance is rooted in respect, understanding, and support.

We focus on teaching children the skills they need to succeed: emotional awareness, problem-solving, empathy, and self-regulation, rather than simply managing their behavior. Our goal is to help children develop internal motivation and self-discipline that will serve them throughout their lives.

Behavioral Expectations

We maintain simple, age-appropriate expectations:

- We are safe with our bodies and words
- We are kind to ourselves, others, and our environment
- We listen when someone is speaking
- We take care of our classroom and materials

Positive Guidance Strategies

Our teachers use research-based positive guidance strategies including:

- Prevention through thoughtful classroom design and engaging curriculum
- Teaching emotional literacy and naming feelings
- Modeling appropriate behavior and communication
- Redirecting children to more appropriate activities
- Providing choices whenever possible
- Using natural and logical consequences
- Offering comfort and support during difficult moments
- Problem-solving with children to help them develop skills

Prohibited Practices

Sacred Roots staff will never use:

- Corporal punishment or physical discipline of any kind
- Yelling, shaming, or humiliation
- Withdrawal of food, rest, or bathroom privileges
- Isolation or time-out as punishment
- Any discipline that is cruel, harsh, or age-inappropriate

Challenging Behaviors

When a child exhibits challenging behaviors, we work closely with families to understand the underlying causes and develop a consistent approach. We may:

- Observe and document the behavior to identify patterns and triggers
- Schedule a parent-teacher conference to discuss the behavior
- Develop an individualized support plan with input from families

- Suggest consultation with outside professionals if needed
- Provide additional support and accommodations as appropriate

Suspension and Expulsion

Sacred Roots is committed to supporting all children and views suspension and expulsion as absolute last resorts. These measures will only be considered after all other interventions have been exhausted and when:

- A child's behavior poses an immediate safety risk to themselves or others
- Parents are unwilling to work with staff to address the behavior
- The program is unable to meet the child's developmental or behavioral needs despite reasonable accommodations

Before any suspension or expulsion, we will provide written notice to families, document all interventions attempted, and offer resources for alternative care or support services.

Family Partnership

Supporting children's social-emotional development requires consistent partnership between home and school. We ask families to:

- Communicate openly about your child's behavior and any concerns
- Share information about changes at home that might affect your child
- Work collaboratively with teachers on behavior support plans
- Reinforce positive behaviors and expectations at home
- Respond promptly to teacher communications about behavior concerns

Family Acknowledgment and Signature

I have read and understand the Student Conduct and Guidance Policy. I understand Sacred Roots' philosophy of positive guidance and agree to partner with staff to support my child's social-emotional development. I understand that suspension and expulsion are last resorts used only when all other interventions have been exhausted.

Child's Full Name: _____

Child's Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Second Parent/Guardian Name (if applicable): _____

Second Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____