**Dunedin Montessori Academy Discipline Policy**Dunedin Montessori Academy recognizes that most discipline problems can be prevented. We feel many potential problems will not occur at our school because of careful scheduling of the day, appropriate expectations of individual children, use of positive communication techniques and a listening attitude.

Appropriate child behavior is encouraged through positive reinforcement, praise and modeling.

In spite of all we do, inappropriate behavior sometimes does happen and it is discouraged through:

1. Structuring the environment
2. Redirecting child behavior – perhaps repeatedly, and changing the focus of attention
3. Appropriate time out management: separating the child from others but within view of the teacher: giving the child time to collect him/herself and think over his/her actions.

Our staff avoids the use of negative discipline practices such as yelling and embarrassing the child because these practices do not teach the child what to do and they do not change behavior in the long term.

We use the following guidelines:

1. prevention d) explanation of consequences
2. diversion e) age appropriate choices given
3. use of clear, simple language f) removal from the situation

No child will be subjected to discipline which is severe, humiliating or frightening, or associated with food, rest or toileting. Spanking or any other form of physical punishment is prohibited.