

Discipline and Guidance Policy

Learning Tree Preschool of Crystal Lake

The goal of discipline and guidance at Learning Tree is to teach children to guide and direct their own behavior and to get along with others. The emphasis is on guiding children to become responsible for their OWN behavior. Guidance, then is a PROCESS of helping children build positive behaviors.

Our goal is to employ techniques, such as those described below, which will foster appropriate behavior. The following list is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather illustrative of the range of techniques the Learning Tree staff will strive to employ. Other intervention methods may be followed when, in the staff members' judgment, the particular circumstances warrant such techniques.

- **Distracting or redirecting.** Most often this means shifting children away from potential problems before they happen. If conflict does break out the teacher may give the child two alternative choices. The child moves to another activity where he is able to control his behavior.
- **Natural consequences:** Staff members' help children see and understand the result of their behavior. For example: if Sadie is dumping water on the floor, she will be handed a sponge to take responsibility for the clean-up.
- **Classroom rules:** Rules are kept to a minimum and are usually for the children's health and safety. When a conflict arises a staff member may stop the action and remind children of the rule. The teacher might say, "Sand is for digging, not throwing."
- **Problem solving:** Sometimes children need help in understanding the result of their behavior. Children who are hitting will be stopped. Through discussion they will be helped to decide what alternatives they should use to solve their dispute. The teacher might say, "What words can you say to tell Max to stop bumping you?"
- **Positive reinforcement:** Minor misbehavior can often be changed by NOT rewarding it with attention. Attention can be given instead for praiseworthy accomplishments.
- **Renewal time:** This technique may be used as a cooling off time, so the child can then use appropriate problem solving behavior. The child is seated away from activity for a minute or two. It is not viewed as punishment.
- **Collaboration:** If problems persist parents and teachers may confer to determine the best course to take. If we determine that an extra teacher is needed for a time to enable the child to function successfully in the group, an intervention schedule will be defined and financial responsibilities assigned.
- **Termination:** Enrollment may be terminated if it is determined that continued participation in our program is not mutually beneficial to the child and other program participants.

I have read the discipline policy of Learning Tree Preschool and understand its goals and methods. I understand that these policies are subject to change at any time without notice at the discretion of the Learning Tree Board and educational staff.

Signature

Date