



Discipline Policy

Safety Harbor Montessori Academy believes that all children desire to be in control of themselves. To that end, our discipline policy is designed to promote intrinsically motivated, appropriate behavior.

During orientation and again during the first few weeks of school, the children are made aware of appropriate and considerate behavior, and why these are necessary for the enjoyment and harmony of the group. Through gentle reminders and consistent modeling, the children become sensitive to the needs of others, and develop a respect for their learning environment.

When a gentle reminder is not enough, the teacher will intervene, respectfully but firmly, to stop the behavior. If a child becomes disruptive to the group or to his own progress, the teacher will redirect him towards more positive, productive activity. We also believe a positive approach to discipline includes acknowledging the child's contributions, and praising his/her progress.

If used consistently, this positive approach to discipline is extremely effective with most children. If a child is not responding, the child's parent or guardian will be called for a conference. Through close cooperation between home and school, the situation can usually be remedied.

If a child becomes too disruptive to remain in the classroom she/he will be taken to the office for a conference with the administrator, and his/her parent(s) will be notified. In the event that a child is too disruptive to return to the classroom, the child's parent (or guardian) will be notified and expected to retrieve the child as soon as feasible.

While a Montessori environment is normally successful with a very wide range of students, nothing is right for every child. One of our greatest challenges is to be objective and compassionate, yet realistic in considering the needs of each child as a unique individual. When we fail despite our best efforts to work with the child to help him/her meet appropriate behavioral expectations within the school's fundamental ground rules, we sadly and reluctantly must counsel the family to seek out another school setting in which the child can experience success.

By signing this sheet I agree:

1. To support the staff in helping my child to develop appropriate classroom behavior.
2. If after an initial period of sixty days my child is not responding to the school's discipline policy, my child must be withdrawn from school.
3. I am financially responsible for any deliberate damage my child causes to the learning environment.

Parent's (Guardian's) Signature

Date