



In compliance with the State of Connecticut Regulation of Department of Public Health, section 19a-79-3a, Middlefield Children's Center has reviewed and discussed their behavioral methods of discipline.

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

REDIRECTION AND DISCIPLINE

Within the classrooms at Middlefield Children's Center, children will be encouraged to freely explore the classroom environments and material within certain limits. These limits, which will be clearly explained to the children, are set to ensure the child's safety and protect the rights of others.

When a child is acting in such a way as to violate these limits, the teacher will intervene with corrective action. The following guidelines will be implemented as appropriate to each individual situation:

1. Response to unacceptable behavior should be immediate. First priority is given to protecting the safety of the child and others.
2. The child will be clearly told what acceptable behavior is and offered options to his or her unacceptable behavior.
3. The consequences for misbehavior should be immediate and of short duration.
4. It is preferred that the consequences be restrictions of space and restrictions of use, such as which toys they may or may not play with. If this approach does not work, the child will be given the chance to "pause" with a teacher and discuss why the behavior is unacceptable and together, the child and teacher will work to create a plan to prevent these behaviors from happening again. At no point will the child be given a "time-out" or left alone. A teacher's role as a leader and role model is most beneficial to children in helping them develop conflict resolution skills.
5. The best method of discipline is prevention. Teachers can redirect children away from potential conflicts and model appropriate behavior.

Under no circumstances is physical punishment of any kind allowed. It is important that a child's feelings are respected. The child should be encouraged to express his or her negative feelings and should not be made to feel bad or guilty about them. Ridicule and threats can be more harmful to the child's sense of self than physical punishment is to the body.