

# SKYCREST CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER DISCIPLINE POLICY

In accordance with the child discipline regulations mandated by the Pinellas County License Board, Childcare facilities must ensure that age appropriate, constructive disciplinary practices are used for children in our care.

The goal of Skycrest Child Development Center is to provide a secure, loving environment for children. It is our philosophy to train the child in self-discipline by taking a positive approach and encouraging children through verbal clues, example and redirection.

The following approaches will be initiated:

- Simple class rules will be used so that the child knows what appropriate behavior is. Rules will be stated simply according to the child's age level. Reasons for the rules (example: safety) will be discussed so the children understand why something may or may not be done.
- To avoid or solve conflicts, choices will be used to allow the child the responsibility of solving the problem himself/herself. For example, if two children are fighting over the same toy, the second child will be given an opportunity to choose from other activities. "John had the animal puzzle first but you may use the farm puzzle or the bird puzzle."
- Redirecting the child's activity from an inappropriate response to an appropriate response. For example, if a child is throwing blocks, the teacher will say and demonstrate "Blocks are for building". If the child continues to throw, he/she will be taken away to engage in another activity.
- A child who exhibits aggressive behavior will be asked to take a "time out" to self soothe. The length of time will be dependent upon the age of the child, not to exceed four (4) minutes (shorter length of time for younger children). The child will be removed from class if persistent aggressive behavior persists. Repetition of aggressive behavior and the inability to follow preschool rules may be an indication that the child is a candidate for referral.
- Parents will be notified and are expected to cooperate in cases of discipline and /or learning problems. If the parents fail to cooperate, the child will be dismissed from the Center.

All staff members are to follow the discipline policy outlined below and in the Parent Handbook. Classroom rules should be discussed with the children in circle time and at other times when deemed necessary.

- "Skycrest Child Development Center strives to discourage all forms of unacceptable behavior by maintaining an appropriate classroom environment. Skycrest Child Development Center embraces a philosophy of positive reinforcement, re-direction to appropriate behavior, addressing actions rather than children, and giving children a clear understanding of consequences of unacceptable behavior. The Teacher will handle discipline by various methods of communication and, if necessary, removal from activity and redirected. The Teacher and the Director will contact the parent for a conference on any negative behavior that does not respond to this type of communication. Spanking or any form of physical punishment is prohibited. Children should never be subjected to discipline which is severe, humiliating, frightening or associated with food, rest or toileting. Parents are encouraged to discuss the needs of their child with the teacher so that we can know how to best work with the child."

## Reasons for Expulsions, Suspension or Dismissal

Every effort will be made to prevent the expulsion or dismissal of children from our program. However, Skycrest Child Development Center reserves the right to cancel the enrollment of a child for reasons, not limited to but including the following:

- Non-payment or excessive late payment of fee/tuition.
- Failure to adhere to policies and procedures as outlined in our Family Handbook.
- The parent/guardian exhibits behavior which is determined to be detrimental to the health and well-being of the children and staff in a classroom or negatively interferes with the normal functioning of the classroom and/or program. This includes but is not limited to: vulgarity, intimidation, harassment or violation of child care licensing regulations.
- Failure of the child to adjust after a reasonable amount of time; the child may not be ready developmentally at this time.
- The child has needs which we cannot adequately meet with our current staffing patterns.
- The child's behavior threatens the health and safety of him/herself, the other children or staff.
  - Uncontrollable tantrums/angry outburst.
  - Bullying or hurting other children (pushing, kicking, biting, punching, cursing...etc.)
  - Threatening other children with violent words.
  - Other – at the discretion of the SCDC Director.

---

Child's Name

---

Parents Signature

---

Date