



Whispering Farms

MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Discipline and Guidance Policy for WFMA

Discipline at WFMA is:

- Individualized and consistent for each child.
- Appropriate to the child's level of understanding; and
- Directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-control.

A teacher only uses positive methods of discipline and guidance that encourage self-esteem, self-control and self-direction, which include at least the following:

- Using praise and encouragement of good behavior instead of focusing only upon unacceptable behavior;
- Reminding a child of behavior expectations daily by using clear, positive statements;
- Redirecting behavior using positive statements; and
- Using brief separation or time out from the group, when appropriate for the child's age and development, which is limited to no more than one minute per year of the child's age.

There is no harsh, cruel, or unusual treatment of any child. The following types of discipline and guidance are prohibited:

- Corporal punishment or threats of corporal punishment;
- Punishment associated with food, naps, or toilet training;
- Pinching, shaking or biting a child;
- Hitting a child with a hand or instrument;
- Putting anything in or on a child's mouth;
- Humiliating, ridiculing, rejecting or yelling at a child;
- Subjecting a child to harsh, abusive or profane language;
- Requiring a child to remain silent or inactive for inappropriately long periods of time for the child's age.

The following conduct policies apply directly to each child and will be used in determining his/her eligibility to continue as a participant in the program. In accordance with the severity of the infraction and the number of times an infraction has occurred, a child may lose the privilege of participating in a specific activity, be denied field trip privileges, or be suspended from the school or be terminated from the program for:

- Repeatedly using foul language and being repeatedly rude and discourteous to the staff and/or peers.
- Defacing WFMA property.
- Repeatedly engaging in fighting as the only means of resolving an issue.
- Biting (when the child has the cognitive ability to know it's wrong and/or harmful).
- Repeatedly refusing to follow basic rules of safety.
- Stealing or defacing other children's property.
- Being a flight risk. When a child repeatedly runs away from the teacher or refuses to come indoors from the playground.

I have read and understand the Whispering Farms Montessori Academy Discipline and Guidance/Conduct Policies. I understand that the offenses listed in the conduct policy are considered serious infractions and may be grounds for my child's dismissal from the school.