

BEHAVIOR GUIDANCE PLAN FOR CHILDREN

Country Acres Child Development Center believes that all children should experience success. We strive for a classroom setting that provides children with opportunities to explore their environment within consistent, age-appropriate limits; in such an atmosphere, most behavioral issues are prevented.

However, if behavioral issues occur, our philosophy is to help children learn human values, problem solving skills and to take responsibility for their own choices. By using the following progressive guidance techniques, we strive to minimize inappropriate behavior while creating a positive environment for all of our children:

1-2-3 Magic Behavior Plan

By Dr. Thomas Phelan

Establish the Rules

Young children are not ready to be rational, or sympathetic to their thoughts. They are impulsive and self-centered by nature.

1-2-3 Magic is based on teachers and parents using No Emotion and No Talking while correcting inappropriate behaviors.

Once the rules are set, 1-2-3 is executed simply by giving the child 3 chances to correct themselves. Example;

- "Preston, please don't stand on the table, I am afraid you will fall and hurt yourself."
- "That's 1"
- "That's 2"
- "That's 3. Please go and sit for ? minutes (minute per age).
- While the plan calls for no discussion after time out, children above the age of 3 can tell you why they were sent to time out and what they can do differently next time. Under the age of 3, may need a short talk as to what led to time out and what they can do differently next time.

Classroom Management

Our teachers will manage individual classrooms by:

- Implementing The Magic 1-2-3 Behavior Plan
- Modeling and reinforcing appropriate behavior
- Maintaining consistent supervision
- Setting reasonable expectations for children's behavior based on their developmental levels and individual differences
- Becoming familiar with an individual child's special needs
- Providing interesting, challenging, age-appropriate activities to do

GUIDELINES FOR PERSISTENT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Persistent inappropriate behavior is any inappropriate behavior which continues after the progressive guidance steps have been used; any behavior which threatens the health or safety of other children or staff; or a continuous inability to follow the rules and guidelines of our program.

Country Acres CDC will use the following progressive procedures:

1. We will observe and record the child's inappropriate behavior.
2. We will document what we have done to try to change the behavior.
3. If inappropriate behavior continues, parents will be asked to participate in an immediate parent-teacher or other administrator conference. Children old enough to understand this process will be invited to attend. A specific action plan will be developed at this conference to address the behavior. The action plan will outline all steps the staff will take to change the behavior, all steps the parents will take, and all steps toward disenrollment if the behavior persists.
4. The Center Director/Program Administrator may suggest outside resources to parents and we will work with any outside resource for further guidance in responding to the child's behavior.
5. If the inappropriate behavior continues, parents will be asked to keep the child home for a day or two.
6. If the inappropriate behavior persists after the child is kept home for several occasions, Country Acres CDC will request the parent to dis-enroll the child Country Acres can disenroll the child.

GUIDELINES FOR IMMEDIATE DISENROLLMENT

Certain behavior may cause a significant risk of harm to the health and safety of other children or staff. (For Example, a physical assault which results in serious bodily injury, an attempted physical assault which if completed, would result in serious bodily injury, setting or attempting to set fires, bringing weapons to the Center, substantial damage to real or personal property, running out of classroom or school or, in some cases, running from teacher, etc.)

Country Acres CDC may dis-enroll any child whose behavior creates a significant risk of harm to the health and safety of other children or staff, without following the guidance steps outlined above.

BITING POLICY

We recognize that biting is a terrible thing for the hurt child, the parents of the hurt child, the teachers, and the parents of the biter. We also recognize that biting is "developmentally appropriate". Please do not infer that statement to imply that it is acceptable. The problem is that it is natural for most children under three years of age to bite.

Humans are very oral creatures. Adults express these oral tendencies by acts such as overeating, chewing gum, smoking, cursing, chewing pencils or biting fingernails. These acts are usually done to relieve anxiety or stress. Children who have not acquired verbal skills do not have the ability to tell us when they are anxious, hurting, upset or stressed. As a result, they have a tendency to bite. Children who are in pain due to teething also have a tendency to bite.

Each time a child bites, an incident report is given to the parents of the child that was bitten and the biter's parents are also informed. We follow privacy acts and will not release the children's names to other parents involved. Our staff is trained to give all of their attention to the child who is bitten. TLC and hugs will be given to the child that was bitten while the child who did the biting will be told very sternly "No Biting" and then ignored while the bitten child is given first aid. We recognize that some children bite just to get attention even if it is negative.

If a child is biting consistently throughout the day, this plan of action will be put in place.

The parent will be called the first time the child bites that day, as a "heads up" that if the child is to bite again that day they will need to be picked up.

From that day going forward, the first time the child bites for the day, the child must be picked up immediately.

Upon the 3rd call to pick up, the child will be suspended for 3 days. As we do understand the child does not know why they are being suspended, it will give a child a break from the atmosphere with the hope that the behavior will stop.

Upon return from suspension, the first biting incident will result in immediate disenrollment.

OTHER FORMS OF DISCIPLINE

Our policy does not permit the use of the following forms of discipline:

- Corporal punishment
- Emotional punishment, including ridicule, embarrassment, or humiliation
- Punishing a child for lapses in toilet training habits
- Withholding food, light, warmth, clothing or medical care
- Physical restraint, other than the restraint necessary to protect a child or others from harm

DETACH HERE & RETURN THIS TO OFFICE

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BEHAVIOR GUIDANCE PLAN

I acknowledge that I have received and read the Country Acres Child Development Center's Behavior Guidance Plan and understand its terms and conditions.

Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature

Date