

Behavior Management

The Little Friends behavior management methods reflect the Quaker philosophy by using “peaceful problem-solving”. Children must be taught the appropriate responses when faced with a conflict or challenge. These teachable moments help children grow socially (they learn how relationships work) and emotionally (they learn they are valued and heard).

Little Friends teachers must understand each child’s situation, i.e. a child coming to child care for the very first time, the length of time a child is in our care, the parent/child dynamic or relationship. Children’s behaviors are reflective of their situations and we should be reflective and respectful of these situations. We know that children do not mean to be “naughty”. Children want your attention, affection and approval, and sometimes do not know how to achieve that in appropriate ways it is our job to teach them how to do that. “Time-outs” are not used.

Little Friends teachers will do the following in order to support and nurture the children:

- Give each child plenty of attention, affection and approval
- Set up routines, structure and schedules and stick to it
- Keep our own emotions in control, even if we are frustrated
- Help children with their words when they don’t have them
- Plan ample developmentally appropriate experiences
- Provide an appropriate number of toys to minimize conflict over coveted items
- Always be engaged and available
- Remember that each issue is its own entity – one issue does not get related to a prior issue
- Set children up to succeed
- Give verbal directions and expectations that are clear and positive
- Give children ample time to play and explore on their own

The following methods are NEVER permitted in Little Friends:

- Verbal abuse: yelling, raised/threatening voices, sarcasm, belittling tones
- Physical punishment: including, but not limited to spanking, shaking, forcing to assume an uncomfortable position, enclosing in a confined space or forcing/withholding food
- Isolating a child out of sight or hearing of an adult
- Forcing or withholding naps or punishing toileting accidents
- Rewarding with food (regardless of healthy or not)

Behaviors which are considered unacceptable at Little Friends are ones where physical injury could result or a general sense of “out-of control” behavior. A conference between the Parents, Teachers and Director will occur and parents may be required to take the child home for the remainder of the day, or the remainder of the school year if such behavior occurs repeatedly.

Little Friends will maintain close contact with parents concerning behavioral issues. Initially, concerns will be brought to the Director, who will then decide on the next steps.