

Behavior Management

The Little Friends behavior management methods reflect the Quaker philosophy by using "peaceful problem-solving" and techniques learned in Conscious Discipline. Children are taught the appropriate responses when faced with a conflict or challenge. These teachable moments help children learn how relationships work and learn they are valued and heard.

Little Friends teachers understand each child is different and may need something different. Children's behaviors are reflective of their situations and we should be reflective and respectful of these situations.

We believe that misbehavior is often a missing skill. Children want attention, affection, and approval, and sometimes do not know how to achieve that appropriately. It becomes a "teachable" moment. 'Time-outs' are not used at Little Friends.

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

- Give each child plenty of attention, affection, and approval
- Set up routines, structures, and schedules and stick to them
- 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 stands alone; 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, enclosed 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

Behaviors that 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 Management Team will occur. When this happens, 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 challenges. Repeated or unresolved concerns will be brought to the Management Team, who will then decide on the next steps.