

# Discipline Policy

**Name of Child:** \_\_\_\_\_

Positive reinforcement is an effective method of behavior management. When children receive positive, nonviolent, and understanding interactions from adults and others, they develop good self-concepts, problem solving abilities and self-discipline. Based on this belief, Empowered Edge uses positive approach to discipline and practices the following discipline and behavior management techniques.

The authoritarian method of behavior management is also used at Empowered Edge in situations that could cause harm. Empowered Edge values each and every child as well as their abilities to make choices and learn through talking out feelings. However, when safety is at risk, children will be asked to stop the action occurring in a firm but calm voice. If the child does not stop the action, pending the severity, a time out may be utilized. For example, if a child is attempting to run outside, that child will be told in a firm but calm respectful tone, "Grown ups can open the door, it is not safe for children to open the door. Please come back to the living room." If the child attempts to elope a second time, a time out may be utilized.

We DO:

- Communicate to children using positive statements
- Communicate with children on their level
- Explain unacceptable behavior to children.
- Praise and encourage children.
- Set limits for the children.
- Apply rules consistently.
- Model appropriate behavior.
- Set up the classroom environment to prevent problems.
- Provide alternatives and redirect children to acceptable activity.
- Help children talk out problems and think of solutions.
- Give choices.
- Use positive tones to praise, and firm but calm respectful tones to redirect.

- Time outs (Time outs will be 1 minute per year of age. Time outs will only be utilized after warnings or if the child is showing signs that they need a break/time out to regroup emotions.)
- Use First/Then statements to help children understand expectations.

**We DO NOT:**

- Inflict corporal punishment in any manner upon a child. (This is defined as any physical force to the body including but not limited to, spanking, hitting, shaking, biting, pinching, pushing, pulling or slapping.)
- Use any strategy that hurts, shames, or belittles a child.
- Use any strategy that threatens, intimidates, or forces a child.
- Use food as a form of punishment.
- Use or withhold physical activity as a punishment.
- Shame or punish a child for bathroom accidents
- Embarrass a child in front of others
- Place a child in a locked room
- Leave a child unattended
- Criticize, make fun or belittle others in front of children.
- Utilize any type of hold that requires force. (Staff may pick up a child to move them to a safe location. For example, if a child is climbing on the couch a staff member may pick the child up and move them to the floor.)

Conferences will be scheduled with parents if the particular disciplinary problems occur. If a child's behavior endangers the safety of themselves or others, Empowered Edge reserves the right to terminate child care services for that particular child.

My signature below indicates that I have received a copy of the discipline policy, it has been reviewed with me, and I understand this policy in its entirety.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_