

# DISCIPLINE POLICY

We believe at “the growing garden” that discipline is never a punishment. Discipline is guiding a child’s behavior to promote a successful school experience. We want children to have a good self-image, build on their self-esteem, and be confident learners. We aide the child’s social interactions by engaging the children and become part of their play experiences, and provide guidance in a positive way.

When conflict does arise, we use three techniques depending on the age of the child:

1. Redirection for younger children...seeing the problem before it can escalate and guide the child’s attention to another activity.
2. Problem solving with the older children...setting guidelines for how we treat each other and how we use our classroom environment. When conflict arises, questions are asked so the child can recognize on their own where the mistake was made and how we can correct it for future interactions of communication and/or treating our classroom environment with respect and dignity.
3. Time Out...is only used as a last resort when the above methods were tried and remain unsuccessful. It is also used when aggression or physical harm to a child is at risk. Time Out is defined as a place separate from the remainder of the group so the child may regain composure and/or be in a safe place. We strive for children to develop independent control of their behavior and not something that is imposed on them. Discipline shall never be isolation without supervision, withholding of food, corporal punishment, abusive language, ridicule or any behavior that shall frighten or endanger a child’s self-esteem.