



Orlando Science Center Preschool Behavior Policy

Orlando Science Center Preschool believes that all children should experience success and be treated with respect and love. We strive for a classroom and outdoor environment that provides children with opportunities to explore the world around them within consistent, age-appropriate limits. In this atmosphere, most behavioral issues are prevented. It is our goal that each child entrusted to our care be allowed, encouraged, understand and believe that they are good with the ultimate goal being that each child develops the most positive self-concept possible.

Many behaviors considered by adult standards as inappropriate are necessary phases of child development; however, if behavioral issues occur, our philosophy is to help children (1) learn good values and problem solving skills and (2) take responsibility for their choices. By using the following behavior guidance techniques, we strive to minimize inappropriate behavior while creating a positive environment for each child.

Classroom Management

Our Preschool staff (teachers and assistants) will manage classrooms by:

- Using Conscious Discipline (Dr. Becky Bailey) methods that integrates all domains of learning (social, emotional, physical, cultural and cognitive) in our curriculum and learning environment. Preschool routines, rituals, communication skills, safe space, class and school family are important components to a child's self-regulation and success.
- Modeling and reinforcing appropriate behavior through appropriate praise.
- Maintaining constant supervision.
- Setting reasonable expectations for each child's behavior based on their developmental levels and individual difference.
- Becoming familiar with each child's special needs.
- Providing interesting, challenging and age appropriate activities.

Redirection/Distraction

We offer alternatives to children engaged in undesirable or inappropriate behavior by offering a different toy, suggesting a new activity, engaging the child in an activity with a teacher or another child, or by suggesting independent play.



Verbal Intervention

The teacher explains the inappropriate behavior to the child and shows them the appropriate way to handle the situation. For example, a teacher might say, "Use your words," and the teacher can model what the child might say, "Instead of hitting Suzy, say 'I'm angry because you took my doll.'"

Logical Consequences

Here, the teacher helps the child understand the logical consequences of his/her actions by removing an object, activity, etc. that is causing the problem. For example, if a child uses blocks to hit other children, the consequence is to remove the child from the block area.

Thinking Time

The child is separated from the group to allow him/her to relax and calm down, and to enable him/her not to be influenced by his/her peers.

Communication is two sided; we will do our best to keep the lines of communication open and hope you will do the same. Together we can ensure a positive experience for child, family and teacher.

DISCIPLINE STEP PROGRAM

The Discipline STEP Program is used for (1) any inappropriate behavior which continues after the progressive guidance steps have been used; (2) any behavior which threatens the health or safety of other children or staff; or (3) a continuous inability to confirm to the rules and guidelines of the program.

Orlando Science Center Preschool will use the following sequence of 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, caregivers of the child will be asked to participate in an immediate conference. Children old enough to understand this conference will be invited to attend. A specific action plan will be developed at this conference to address the behavior, and the steps the parents will take to address and change the behavior, as well. If the behavior persists, the action plan will include steps toward finding a program to serve the family's and child's needs.



4. The Orlando Science Center Preschool Director may, but is not required to, suggest outside resources to caregivers in responding to the child's behavior.
5. If the inappropriate behavior persists after the child is kept home on several occasions, Orlando Science Center Preschool may request that the caregiver be asked to find another program.

GUIDELINES FOR IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL

Certain behaviors may cause a significant risk of harm to the health and safety of other children or staff. For example, (1) physical assault which results in serious bodily injury, or (2) substantial damage to real or personal property, etc.

Orlando Science Center Preschool may immediately dismiss any child from the program whose behavior creates a significant risk of harm to the health and safety of staff or other children.

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

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