

# Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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## PRESCHOOL PROGRAM DISCIPLINE

### POLICY

The Board is committed to creating positive learning environments within the preschool program. The focus shall be on the prevention of behaviors and promoting students' social-emotional and behavioral health. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for creating and using developmentally appropriate practices for discipline and behavior management within the preschool program. This policy addresses the expectations set forth when corrective action needs to be taken so that students' health and safety may be maintained. It is the Board's goal to prevent, severely limit, and ultimately eliminate the need for aversive actions as a response to challenging behavior. The written policy and procedures shall be on file at the preschool location for review. Behavior management/discipline policies and procedures shall ensure the safety, physical and emotional well-being of all individuals on the premises.

Stark DD's discipline policy shall comply with Ohio Administrative Code sections 5180-37-19 and 5180-35-15 along with section 3319.46 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Historical Resolution Information		Reviewer(s):  Superintendent Early Childhood Director
Date	Resolution Number	
3/23/21	03-14-21	
12/14/21	12-47-21	
2/25/25	02-15-25	

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## **PRESCHOOL PROGRAM DISCIPLINE**

### **PROCEDURES**

1. Constructive, developmentally appropriate child guidance and management techniques are to be used at all times and shall include such measures as redirection, separation from problem situations, talking with the child about the situation, and positive reinforcement for appropriate behavior. A preschool staff member in charge of a child or group of children shall be responsible for their discipline.
2. The preschool staff will be creating a favorable climate for the children. The time spent at preschool will be relaxing, fun, and enriching for all. Discipline is a part of this climate and is the ongoing process of helping children to develop inner controls so they may manage their own behavior in a socially approved manner.
3. Setting limits gives the child the security of knowing that one's strong emotions will not lead the child to do things that will later be regretted. The child knows an adult will take the responsibility of stopping unacceptable behavior until the child is able to do so for him or herself. Staff members shall:
  - Explain all rules in a cheerful manner to make them understandable and acceptable to the child.
  - Be consistent, firm, and fair
  - Enforce the rules in a positive, impersonal way, not humiliating, shaming or frightening a child.
  - Redirect an uncooperative child to another activity or redirect the entire activity into a more wholesome direction if needed.
  - Encourage the shy child to stand up for him or herself and encourage the aggressive child to verbalize and learn other ways of expressing anger or frustration.
  - Help the children understand one another's actions.
4. Desirable behavior will be complimented or otherwise rewarded and undesirable behavior will be kept at a minimum by intervention before problems arise.
5. Staff members will not use physical restraint to confine a child by any means other than holding a child for a short period of time to allow the child to regain control unless otherwise directed by a specific behavior plan developed by an individual child's IEP team. The team will communicate and consult with the parent prior to implementing a specific behavior management plan. Any such plan will be consistent with this rule and in writing and signed by the child's parents/guardian.
6. SCBDD Preschool is a positive environment in which students have the opportunity to grow and learn, not only academically but also emotionally. Actual methods of discipline shall apply to all persons on the premises and shall be restricted as follows:

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- a. At no time will cruel, harsh, corporal punishment or any unusual punishments such as, but not limited to, punching, pinching, shaking, spanking, or biting occur.
- b. At no time will another child be given the responsibility or permission to discipline a classmate.
- c. Discipline shall not include withholding food, rest or toilet use and food shall not be used as a reward for behavior.
- d. Children will never be placed in a locked room or confined in an enclosed area such as a closet, a box, or similar cubicle.
- e. Separation, when used as discipline, shall be brief in duration and appropriate to the child's age and developmental ability, and the child shall be within sight and hearing of a preschool staff member in a safe, lighted, and well ventilated space. For example, if a child needs to have some time away from his classmates, a "Thinking Chair" may be used on which a child will sit for a period of time (equal to his/her age) in a different part of the classroom in order to calm down and get ready to be with the group again. At all times, a child sitting on the "Thinking Chair" will be supervised by a classroom staff member.
- f. A child will not be subjected to profane language, threats, derogatory remarks about himself or his family or other verbal abuse.
- g. Discipline shall not be imposed on a child for failure to eat, sleep or for toileting accidents.
- h. Techniques of discipline shall not humiliate, shame or frighten a child.
- i. Preschool staff shall not abuse or neglect children and shall protect children from abuse and neglect while in attendance in the preschool program.

Finally, as mandated by Ohio law, if an employee has reason to suspect a child is being abused or neglected in any environment, she/he is required to report this suspicion to the Stark County Department of Jobs and Family Services Child Protective Services Division and a serious incident report is to be completed and submitted to the Ohio Department of Education in accordance with section 2151.421 of the Ohio Revised Code. In addition, as an employee of a county board of developmental disabilities, all suspected incidents of abuse or neglect to a child with a disability must be reported to the agency's Major Unusual Incidents unit for investigation

Parents of preschoolers attending SCBDD Preschool shall receive a copy of the Discipline Policy and Procedures within the parent handbook each year.

All preschool staff members shall receive a copy of the Discipline Policy and Procedures for review upon employment and shall sign off as having read them. This sign off form shall be kept on record in the preschool administrative offices.