

The Villages® *Early Learning Company*

Discipline Policy

We encourage all children to be responsible and caring individuals who respect themselves and others. Therefore, we always administer discipline in a loving and respectful manner.

Your child's growing sense of independence may have him/her test the limits of acceptable behavior. This is when setting limits that young children can understand and that can be consistently enforced is appropriate. Children's first rules are focused on protecting their safety and the safety of others.

We use these age-appropriate guidance/discipline such as:

- We stay one step ahead. We will distract or redirect children from unsafe objects or activities in a positive manner. We save "no" primarily for safety issues.
- We praise good choices/behavior and are patient and supportive, giving opportunities for the child to correct misbehavior and learn from these incidences. We encourage children to use their words and attempt to solve their own issues (with our guidance).
- The adults will model appropriate behavior/communication, in order to be a positive influence for our young children. We will not yell at or put down children.
- We provide time for your child to play independently. This allows him or her to choose and direct their activity, and helps build confidence.
- We may use time out to provide a brief period (no more than 1 min per year for the age of the child) to allow the child to calm down and be ready to rejoin their peers.

Under NO circumstances will physical punishment ever be used by staff.

Parents are also not permitted to use physical punishment with children on campus.

Under NO circumstances will the following ever be withheld from your child: food/drink, rest, access to toileting facilities, or opportunities for indoor/outdoor play

Discipline will never be severe, humiliating or frightening.



If inappropriate behavior is a reoccurring issue, parents may be included in a conference so we can work together to find the most appropriate method for helping your child.

If the safety and well-being of your child or others is an ongoing concern due to your child's behavior, your child may lose their privilege of attending TVELC (see our Removal/Expulsion Policy). As always, our mutual goal is the well-being of ALL children in our care.