

Acorn 8 Oaks Daycare Guiding, Caring and Discipline Policy

As a licensed daycare centre that must abide by all regulations under the Community Care Facilities Licensing Act, staff must ensure that no child enrolled in our centre, while under the care or supervision of centre staff is:

- (1) Subjected to shoving, hitting, shaking, spanking or other forms of corporal punishment.
- (2) Subjected to harsh, belittling, or degrading treatment whether verbal, emotional or physical that would humiliate the child or undermine the child's self esteem.
- (3) As a form of punishment confined, physically restrained or kept without adult supervision apart from other children.
- (4) As a form of punishment deprived of meals, snacks, rest or necessary use of a toilet.
- (5) Subjected to emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect as those terms are defined in the above referenced regulations.

At the centre the staff works towards providing an accepting, safe and caring environment where consistent discipline is a part of our program. Our goal is to help each child to develop to his/her full potential physically, intellectually, socially, and emotionally. The ultimate goal of discipline for your child is self control and self discipline. Through consistent and positive discipline staff hope that the young child will gradually become more responsible for his/her own behaviour and ultimately become a responsible fully contributing member of society.

As a staff we try to set reasonable limits that relate to the safety and protection of the rights of others. Limits are simply stated and maintained and take each child's stage of development into account. Controlling the daycare environment makes less need for the direct control of the child's behaviour. When the program is well planned direct control is little in evidence. If a child is not getting on with

other children redirection can play an important role in discipline. The staff redirects his/her energies in a more constructive way, often by assisting the child in choosing a more suitable activity.

The daycare staff utilizes the logical consequences theory as much as possible. The child learns that consequences may happen if certain behaviour continues. Occasionally safety must be considered first, and in such cases, the child must be removed from the situation. Staff may choose to remove the child from the problem area, to a place where the child and teacher can take a few minutes to calm down and hopefully the child will be able to regain his/her composure while still being able to see what is happening in the centre. When the child has calmed down the staff member will discuss what has happened using as few words as possible. The child can then rejoin the play he or she has left or when necessary be redirected to a different activity with a staff member's assistance.

Defining limits, explaining reasons in simple terms, giving choices, controlling the environment and redirection are all positive techniques for disciplining children. Staff use a combination of these techniques for positive results.

When dealing with discipline staff try to make it clear that it is the child's actions, not the child, that are disapproved of and not acceptable. This is often unclear to the child causing him/her to think that he/she is bad. Staff always let the child know that the teachers love and acceptance is always there through good times or bad.

Children need discipline to assist them in developing into healthy well adjusted members of society. Our goal at Acorn is to assist them in acquiring their own self control through positive discipline so they can one day monitor themselves.