

Child Guidance and Discipline Policy

- Positive Discipline
 - Discipline is an opportunity to guide children in to becoming self-discipline and learning self-control.
 - Discipline will consist of providing choices and setting limits.
 - Staff will always use positive alternatives and positive language to set a clear example as to what behavior is expected and acceptable.
 - Rules for behavior will be reviewed and taught on a daily basis.

- Time Outs
 - Time outs will only be used when a child intentionally causes harm to another child.
 - Redirection will be used first in all circumstances before resulting in time out.
 - Time outs will be referred to as “a cool down”
 - Time outs will consist in a brief period away from peers and activities to calm down and express their feelings.
 - Time outs will be one minute per age, never exceeding five minutes.

COMAR REGULATION 13A.07.03 for Child Discipline.

A. Child discipline shall be:

- (1) Appropriate to the age, maturity, and physical condition of the child; and
- (2) Consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

B. The operator may not:

- (1) Force a child to eat or drink;
- (2) Punish a child for refusing to eat or drink; or (3) Withhold food or beverages as punishment.

C. The operator shall:

- (1) Prepare a written child discipline policy that states the:
 - (a) Discipline methods used at the center; and
 - (b) The circumstances under which the child discipline methods may be applied;
- (2) Make the child discipline policy available to:
 - (a) The parent of each child in care;
 - (b) A parent who is considering whether to enroll their children; and (c) The office; and
- (3) Ensure that the child discipline policy is followed by each employee, volunteer, and other individual connected with the center.