



DISCIPLINE POLICY

Children are taught to show respect for each other, the teachers, and the environment each day at school. They are provided with clear examples of positive behavior and proper actions in specific situations through our Grace and Courtesy exercises. Through redirection, the setting of clear limits and teaching in neutral moments, the discipline of the classroom is maintained. If these measures don't work and a child lacks self-control a teacher may separate the child from the group and sit with them separately, ask them to sit in the 'peace corner' or remove them to another quiet place until they are able to regain control of their body/emotions to resume normal class activity. At no time will harsh or abusive punishment be used, nor will the child be neglected or humiliated. It is understood that children need to learn to respond to their emotions in a positive and constructive manner. One function of the school is to guide children through this process of developing self-discipline and awareness of their role in a group.

If a child shows any of the following behaviors day after day and it cannot be successfully modified, we may request that the child have a reduced schedule or leave the program. This behavior includes:

1. Overly aggressive responses and/or repeated physical reactions to children and/or teachers (biting, hitting, kicking, pushing, etc.)
2. Constant over activity, undirected toward any specific activity
3. Constant lack of attention span for any activity or encounter during the day
4. Inability to follow simple requests/direction
5. Uncontrolled emotional response when redirected
6. Destructive to the room and the materials
7. Unable to separate from parents successfully after one month in school

If the above behavior occurs on a frequent basis and cannot be resolved, the following will occur:

1. The lead teacher will contact parents by phone to discuss behaviors
2. Teachers will make careful, written observations for one week.
3. The lead teacher will contact parents for an in-person conference to discuss next steps, which may include requesting a professional evaluation
4. Lead teacher/Directors will confer at a special staffing meeting to determine next steps.
5. The parents may be asked to
 - a. Reduce the child's schedule
 - b. Withdraw the child until a later date
 - c. Withdraw the child from the program.

These measures are taken in the best interest of the child, other children in the classroom, and the school community. School readiness and stress in social situations may at times only be evaluated after a child is present in a program. Classrooms can be overwhelming for a child, and they may be unable to be successful in this environment. Sometimes the behavior is only temporary in the child's life, however, the school cannot be responsible to modify difficult behavior patterns. Only parents can handle this task. Meeting House Montessori School will provide parents with support, basic advice, and encouragement.

By signing below, I attest that I have read and understand the discipline policy for Meeting House Montessori School.

Child's Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Printed Name & Signature