Behavior and Developmental Guidance Procedures

Everyone at the Apple Program understands this is an important time in your child’s life, and we want to make this a fun and positive learning experience for all children. Understandably, limits and classroom rules are needed for children to learn self-control, social skills, and accountability. Our approach is to model expected behavior and help guide the children to understand the classroom rules to promote a safe and positive environment.

Our teachers regularly communicate and reinforce our classroom rules and behavior expectations following positive approaches:

- Reinforcing positive behavior
- Redirecting the child when inappropriate behavior is observed
- Encouraging and teaching children to “use their words” to resolve conflicts
- Helping and counseling the children to problem solve and to resolve issues on their own
- Assisting the child to understand making “good choices”
- “Take a Break” for a child to think about a behavior or action that was not a good choice or harmful to another person

Disruptive behaviors can have a negative impact on individual children or the entire class and will not be allowed to continue. These behaviors can include but are not limited to: hitting, biting, pinching, throwing objects, choking, screaming, not listening to the teachers, refusing to take direction, disrespectful language and disrupting the learning environment of the other children in the class. We are committed to providing and promoting a safe and positive preschool experience for all children in our program.

When addressing disruptive behavior, our approach is to use progressive discipline subject to the following general guidelines:

- An incident of inappropriate behavior is documented by the teacher and turned in to the Supervisor. The teacher informs the parent after class of the incident. (Ordinarily, the nanny and/or caregiver will not be informed as we prefer direct communication with the parent.) The parent will acknowledge the incident by signing the bottom of the “Behavior and Guidance Procedures”. The parent will be promptly contacted by the program Supervisor. A Behavioral Modification Plan may be put into place with the assistance of the teacher and input from the parent.
- If another incident of inappropriate behavior occurs, it will be documented by the teacher and turned in to the Supervisor. The parent will be called to pick up the child from class. At this time, the parent will sign an acknowledgement of the second incident on the “Behavior and Guidance Procedures”. The parents will be required to meet with the program Supervisor. The child does not return to class before this meeting. A Behavior Modification Plan may be put into place, or if one exists, may be modified.
- At this time, the program may also recommend screening in the child’s school district and/or will recommend the parent contact the school district for possible early childhood services. Your cooperation is agreed upon in signing this form.
- If inappropriate behavior occurs again and continued participation is not beneficial to the child and/or the class, we will consider enrollment termination. We are committed to meeting each child’s individual
needs and we will handle situations on a case-by-case basis.

Notwithstanding our preference to use progressive discipline, there may be instances, where in our discretion, we will forego lesser forms of discipline and proceed with immediate suspension or removal from the program.

The Apple Program is also committed to compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will make reasonable accommodations to assure children are given an opportunity to participate. However, parents and guardians must understand and appreciate that the program might not be the best or appropriate setting or “fit” for every child and in some circumstances; a child cannot meet our behavior requirements with or without reasonable accommodation.