

# RAP Guidance and Discipline Policy

One of the goals of RAP is to help children become comfortable in their classroom environment, thereby facilitating that comfort into positive relationships with their peers, as well as the development of the child's self-esteem and inner control.

Conflicts between children are an everyday, natural occurrence and the RAP staff intervenes in the situation, especially when there are safety issues. A more serious discipline problem is defined as one in which the child is hampering the flow of the program by requiring constant one-on-one attention; is inflicting physical or emotional harm on other children or staff; is otherwise unable to follow rules and guidelines of the program. When a conflict does occur or a child needs some intervention, the staff will do the following:

1. Observe the behavior and intervene immediately when someone is not safe.
2. If children are using their words and trying to handle the conflict in a positive way, the teachers and staff may choose to continue to observe their problem-solving skills.
3. When a teacher needs to intervene, she/he may help each child to come up with words as to how each feels or what should happen next.
4. If the behavior of a child continues to be unsafe, the teacher will tell the child to choose another activity, usually in another area of the room.
5. If the behavior of a child is still unsafe, the teacher has the right to give the child time away from the group. During this time the teacher is responsible for facilitating a dialogue on conflict resolution with that child and talking about his/her behavior and means to prevent this type of behavior from occurring in the future.
6. If problems persist with a child, the parent will be contacted. If the problem cannot be resolved, the child will be asked to withdraw from the program. The following list of behaviors may constitute reason for suspension from the program:
  - Physical assaults on staff members or on other children (hitting, kicking, biting, etc.)
  - Possession of weapons or other dangerous articles
  - Possession of a controlled substance
  - Leaving RAP grounds without permission from staff
  - Foul, disrespectful or abusive language
  - Theft
  - Blatant disregard for authority
  - Any behavior that is deemed physically or emotionally harmful to others

I, the undersigned, have read this policy for my child who is enrolled at RAP.

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Parent Signature

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Child Name