



*A Children's Habitat*  
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

## **CAMP DISCIPLINE POLICY**

Maria Montessori developed the concept of "normalization" to describe the process by which each child acquires certain personality characteristics that lead to success in the classroom and throughout life. A "normalized" child will love learning, be kind to others, develop concentration and good work habits, and become independent.

Our goal is to create and maintain an environment in which each child can successfully reach this level of normalization. Normalization of the environment begins with the modeling of the appropriate behavior by the teacher combined with a high level of respect for each student. Many discipline problems can be avoided by the following proactive strategies practiced in every Habitat classroom.

### **The teacher will:**

1. Provide a structured Montessori environment in which a child feels secure and confident to choose his/her work
2. Set behavioral expectations through instruction, role modeling, and class meetings
3. Redirect a child and use conflict resolution techniques
4. Work one-on-one with children who need additional guidance

### **The behavioral expectations we have for the children are:**

1. Respect yourself, others, and our environment
2. Demonstrate responsibility, respect, and self-restraint
3. Treat all classroom and environment materials with great respect and care
4. Return all things to their proper place
5. Keep the environment clean and orderly
6. Keep bathrooms neat and clean at all times
7. When in the classroom, be "engaged" in an activity/job at all times
8. Work quietly in the classroom
9. Use walking feet at all times except when on the playground
10. Be quiet when walking down the hallway.

\*\*If a student is not meeting the standards of behavior expected in the Montessori classroom, an Incident Report will be sent home to notify the parent/guardian. We hope this notification will open a positive channel of communication between home and school.

A child's behavior becomes a problem when his/her negative actions disrupt the school environment and affect the positive values and culture defined within the Habitat Community. For the safety and well-being of all individuals in our school, the following are unacceptable behaviors:

1. Talking back and arguing
2. Kicking others, throwing objects, fighting, or harming other children or themselves in any way
3. Hitting, pushing, biting, or scratching
4. Running in or out of the classroom
5. Damaging or destroying other children's work or school property
6. Intentionally disrupting the learning environment
7. Misuse of the materials or playground equipment
8. Intentionally not following directions in the classroom, during lunch, or on the playground
9. Encouraging others to misbehave

If a child exhibits unacceptable behavior, the following disciplinary actions will be taken:

1. The Student/Teacher will try to resolve the problem in the classroom.
  - a. The child will be asked to sit in a designated area within the environment until they have collected themselves and can rejoin the group in a cooperative way.
  - b. After the child has "collected" himself/herself, the teacher will quietly discuss the inappropriate behavior and remind the student of expected behavior.  
If additional measures need to be taken, the Head of School will be notified.
2. If the problem is unmanageable and a child's behavior cannot be controlled within the environment, parents will be called to take him/her home early.
3. Parents will be asked to meet with teacher to discuss a specific problem(s) and steps to resolve this issue.
4. If, after a parent/teacher conference a child still cannot be controlled within the environment, the child will be asked to remain home for the remainder of the camp week.

### **A Children's Habitat Expulsion Policy**

If inappropriate behavior persists after a week off from camp, the Disciplinary Action Steps stated above will be followed one additional time. If there is no resolution of the issue or if the behavior persists, the student will be asked not to return to any remaining scheduled camps for the remainder of the summer.

### **Parent/Guardian's Role In Supporting Positive Behavior**

**Modeling:** A parent is the most important teacher in a child's life. Children observe and imitate the behavioral responses that are used by the significant adults in their environment. Demonstrating a variety of healthy responses to frustration and set-backs, as well as modeling effective problem-solving techniques and non-judgmental communication are especially valuable to young children who are still learning to establish their own self-control.

**Discussion:** While children absorb a great deal by observation, discussing ways to show respect, build trust, show empathy, manage anger, and practice forgiveness can help a child build successful relationships.

**Reinforcement:** Montessori philosophy does not advocate external rewards for desired behavior, as this tends to reduce intrinsic motivation. However, acknowledging and praising positive behavior is always important and will help shape a child's behavior far better than criticism.

**Teaching Values:** A CHILDREN'S HABITAT is built on the concept of COMMUNITY. A community shares common values. Its members seek to give as much as they are able for the good of the whole, and take only what they really need. The community devotes itself to the growth of all individual members progressing forward toward a shared vision. At A CHILDREN'S HABITAT, we value:

1. Respect for ourselves, others, and the environment
2. Honesty
3. Courtesy and exceptional manners
4. Empathy for others and respect for differences among people and cultures
5. Accepting responsibility for personal decisions and actions
6. Working cooperatively with others, which includes listening, sharing opinions, negotiating, compromising, helping the group reach consensus, and taking a stand
7. Seeking one's share of the workload
8. Creating a balance between the needs of individual students and families, and the needs of the school population as a whole
9. Pride in our school

**Home/School Communication**

Changes in a child's home life may affect his/her behavior and performance at school. Please notify the office and your child's teacher if any significant changes occur\*, such as:

1. Extended vacations or business trips by a family member
2. Child staying somewhere other than home (relative/friend's house)
3. Loss of a family member, including pets
4. Moving
5. Change in family environment (separation, divorce, new partner, new baby)

\* This information will be strictly confidential

If you understand and agree to adhere to A CHILDREN'S HABITAT discipline policy, please sign where designated and return this section to school.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_