

CHILD GUIDANCE POLICY

Infant and toddler-aged children are rapidly developing and changing. Gradually we see a change from being totally dependent on adults to a child with independence and will. It is not our role to take this away from them, but to share with them appropriate ways of expressing themselves and attaining what they need. We want children to interact appropriately with others because of their own inner self-control, not because of a fear from some external discipline such as spanking or yelling. Our policy dictates that spanking and yelling will never be used by EHS staff to respond to a child's behavior issues.

The guidance policy at EHS encourages the development of self-control within a child and follows these guidelines:

- A child exhibiting inappropriate behavior will be re-directed to another activity and unsafe items within reach of grip will be substituted or a more appropriate toy.
- Changing the environment may be necessary and should happen instead of restricting a child's exploration and desire to move around.
- Adults will help children put their feelings or emotions into words. (e.g. "you look angry!".. "What happened?").
- Adults will intervene if a behavior hurts self or others. (e.g. "I can't let you bite me. Bite this instead".)

Finally, if after trying the above practices a child cannot stop an inappropriate behavior, an adult will remove the child from the activity or area. The adult will remain with the child, engage in a new activity if the child is capable or just take a break with the child in a cozy area of the caregiving room.

Staff will use the following process to gather more information when a child demonstrates persistent challenging behaviors. This information will be shared with the Center Supervisor, parent or in consultation in order to respond creatively and appropriately to a child's needs.

- S - State the Problem
- O - Observe behavior
- L - Learn what is developmentally appropriate
- V - Vary your own behavior
- E - Enforce boundaries