

**MCAS Cherry Point
Children and Youth Programs
Child Development Center and Cherry Tree House**

Child Guidance and Discipline Policy

Our goal is to promote self-control and appropriate social behavior in children and youth. We use positive methods to encourage development of these behaviors. Positive guidance helps children learn what is acceptable and what is not and helps children learn to make their own decisions.

Childcare providers set behavior limits based on positive guidance and redirection as they focus on teaching rather than punishing. Aggressive behaviors are most often present when children lack the skills to cope with frustrating situations and are to be handled by validating the child's feelings and/or redirecting the child to another activity.

Verbal abuse (including yelling or raised voices, threats and derogatory remarks) and any type of physical punishment such as squeezing to cause pain, jerking or pulling a child, slapping, hitting, restricting a child's movement or placing the child in an isolated or confined space are all forbidden and are grounds for immediate dismissal. Withholding or forcing meals, snacks or naps are also forbidden.

Our guidance strategies include:

- Use of clear directions
- Communication of age appropriate positive expectations/consequences
- Modeling appropriate verbal responses to conflicts
- Positive reinforcement
- Listening to the child
- Avoiding labeling of children
- Providing challenging activities or redirecting to alternative activities
- Ignoring behavior when appropriate to do so

Touch Policy

Physical contact is important for a child's development. A child/youth's self-esteem grows when they are cared for in a loving manner. Holding hands, a pat on the back, a reassuring hug (lasting 3 seconds or less), and for younger children, a lap to sit on and a reassuring back rub at nap time are all examples of nurturing gestures. These expressions of affection are natural for adults who work with children.

INAPPROPRIATE TOUCHING IS GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE DISMISAL FOR ANY STAFF MEMBER

Some obvious examples of inappropriate touch are shoving, biting, squeezing, head and/or arm twisting, fondling, pinching and corporal punishment. No corporal punishment is allowed in CYP facilities by staff, parents, guardians or any other adult with permissions to interact with a child.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Family Advocacy Program (FAP) 466-3264

24/7 National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE)