



# The Growing Place School

## **DISCIPLINE POLICY - TEACHER LOVING CARE**

TLC (Teacher Loving Care) and consistency are the basic tenets of discipline at First UMC- The Growing Place. Redirection, modeling, problem solving approaches, helping children develop inner discipline, and positive reinforcement are techniques implemented by our teachers. Consistent, clear rules and daily routines are established and followed by all.

Our aim is to make the children feel secure in their home away from home. It is accepted knowledge in the early childhood education community that challenging behavior can be a form of expression for children with limited verbal skills. For example, some young children may hit, push and bite when angry. Rather than be subject to a rigid prescribed set of responses, each situation should be dealt with on an individual, case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the Director using good judgment and guided by current best practices.

Parents will be made aware of ongoing behavioral issues and be expected to work with the Director to develop a collaborative plan to resolve such issues. The Director shall follow guidelines promulgated by the Florida Department of Children and Families, and be guided by current Early Childhood Education practices in documenting and reporting behavioral issues. Please keep your child's teacher informed as to any major changes or events at home which may affect behavior.

Although it is not possible in advance to determine what may be required, and in addition to other methodologies that may be chosen, the Director may determine that it is necessary to have a child accompanied by a professional facilitator or referred to an outside professional, at the family's expense, or, if circumstances warrant, to exclude the child from The Growing Place. Any professionals engaged to work in the school must have credentials and/or training acceptable to the school and must successfully pass the school's standard background security screening.

**Included in our Discipline Policy are the following Department of Children and Families (DCF) Statutes 65C-22.001(8) (b) and (c):**

**(b) All child care personnel must comply with the facility's written disciplinary policy. Such policies shall include standards that prohibit children from being subjected to discipline which is severe, humiliating, frightening, or associated with food, rest, or toileting. Spanking or any other form of physical punishment is prohibited for all child care personnel.**

**(c) Children may not be denied active play as a consequence of misbehavior.**