

# Emmanuel Lutheran Early Childhood Ministry

## DISCIPLINE POLICY

**Our discipline is based on the Biblical concept of love and control. The goals of discipline are self-control and responsibility.**

- Discipline means learning.
- It does not mean punishment, tears or humiliation.
- It means a chance to learn how to live in a social world.
- Discipline is not something adults do to children.
- It is something they do **with** children.
- Teachers and parents are most likely to achieve these goals when they respond to the causes of behaviors, as well as to the behaviors themselves.
- The teachers of Emmanuel Lutheran Early Childhood Ministry silently observe a child's behaviors before reacting and responding to them.
- Teachers may use a variety of discipline techniques to meet the needs of different situations. Corporal punishment is **never** used.
- Parents or guardians must be involved in attempts to address concerns with their children.
- Parents are always welcome to visit anytime that our preschool and daycare is open.
- Classroom doors are always open to you to observe your child. During the month of September, please consider observing from outside the classroom (from the preschool office hallway or windows) to lessen your child's separation anxiety as they adjust to school.
- Without parental cooperation, there is very little we can do to help the child reach his/her full potential.
- Failure by a parent/guardian to be involved in interventions as requested or repeated violations on the part of the student can result in a child's exclusion from the program.

**It is very important that a child's development is nurtured through caring, patience and understanding. While caring for your children, we may have to respond to your child's misbehavior. Hitting, kicking, pushing, spitting, hostile verbal behavior and other behaviors which will hurt another child are not permitted.**

**In response to these behaviors, we WILL NOT use:**

- Humiliation.
- Deprive your child of food or other basic needs.
- Physical punishment, even if requested by the parent.

**In response to misbehavior, we WILL:**

- Respect your child.
- Establish clear rules.
- Be consistent in enforcing rules.
- Use positive language to explain desired behavior.
- Speak calmly while bending down to your child's eye level.
- Give clear choices.
- Redirect your child to a new activity.
- Move your child to a time-out chair for no longer than one minute per year of your child's age, if necessary.
- Share the good news of Jesus' love and forgiveness with your child, helping them understand that Jesus took away their sins on the cross, and loves them no matter what.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

I have **read, understand and approve** of the above discipline policy for my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE KEEP THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS. THANKS!**

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