



# Victor Valley COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

### DISCIPLINE POLICY

Socialization (the ability to interact in a group setting) is an **emerging ability** for the preschool child. This is a dynamic period, characterized by many beginnings but few completely perfected skills. Staff welcomes discipline situations as an opportunity to support children's growth.

The goals of discipline situations are to help children:

1. **Internalize** socially acceptable behavior.
2. Become **self-disciplined**.
3. Experience **success** in relationships.
4. Develop **peaceful** and **non-violent** strategies for conflict resolution.
5. Preserve **dignity** and a sense of **self-worth**.

Discipline is designed to promote self-direction, self-control, choice, empathy, respect, and kindness to others. This is accomplished through sensitivity, consistency, firmness, fairness, and follow-through. Our basic rules of conduct are that **no child** will be allowed to:

1. Hurt another person or himself/herself.
2. Infringe on another child's work/play.
3. Destroy our environment.

Our staff will be pro-active in preventing problems and helping children resolve conflicts effectively by:

1. Providing an organized and ordered environment with enough space to play and a variety of materials that are of **value** and **interest** to children.
2. Establishing and maintaining a predictable, consistent daily routine with a balance of child-initiated and adult-initiated activities.
3. Eliminating long waiting periods and making the short waiting periods as active as possible.
4. Allowing children to make choices throughout the daily routine.
5. Planning for and helping children anticipate transitions.
6. Listening to children's points of view, ideas, concerns, and feelings.
7. Giving children clear, consistent **reasons** for the expectations, rules and limits they establish.
8. Recording observations of children and planning for children's interests on a daily basis.
9. Using the steps in conflict resolution to mediate conflicts between and among children. The steps are as follows:
  - **Approach calmly.** Observe what is happening and prepare yourself for a positive outcome.
  - **Gather information.** Acknowledge feelings. Ask open-ended questions, directing your questions to one child, then another, all the while listening carefully for details.
  - **Restate the problem.** Tell what happened according to what the children have told you (not according to what you think.) Be specific ("Brianna, you want to have a turn and, Jasmine, you are not finished yet.")
  - **Ask for ideas for solutions** ("What do you think we could do about this problem? .....What do you think we should do now?") Be prepared to give suggestions. ("Brianna, you might want to ask Jasmine how long she will be swinging. Jasmine, could you come and tell Brianna when you are finished?")
  - **Restate the choices and ask for a decision** ("Brianna, it seems that you could wait nearby for five minutes or Jasmine could come to get you when she is finished"). The adult checks a few minutes later to see if Jasmine has given Brianna a turn.

I have received a copy, have read and I understand Victor Valley College Child Development Center's discipline policy.

Child's Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date