

Guidance Policy

We believe that all domains of learning are supported during play and through strong, positive, interactions with adults. Promoting healthy social and emotional development, including self-control, is one of the fundamental responsibilities our program. The preschool period is a critical time for children to learn to control their thoughts, feelings, attention, impulses, and behavior. They are learning how to get along with others and how to be a friend. Children are not born with these skills. Teachers and caregivers must teach social-emotional skills just as they teach washing hands, or learning colors and shapes.

We know that when children are given the opportunities and support to develop (learn, practice, discuss, etc.), self-control and other social and emotional skills, it gives them the foundation needed for academic and life success. We support this development through:

Our Environment

- We provide children with materials and engage them in activities that are appropriate for their age and respectful to them as individuals
- We develop schedules to meet the needs of young children and avoid long periods of wait time without activity
- We are flexible in our schedule and follow the interests and needs of the children's cognitive, physical, and biological needs
- We regularly observe the environment and the children as they interact in it to ensure it promotes healthy social interactions (ex. Having multiples of the same toy)

Our Teachers

- Work to develop a relationship with each child
- Encourage peer relationships by creating social opportunities and working with children to resolve conflict
- Always speak to children in a calm tone, especially during redirections
- Put words to children's emotions (ex. "Billy, I can tell you were mad when James took your block.")
- Use social stories with young children to teach healthy social skills

Our Families

- Communicate regularly with staff to ensure consistency in guidance between home and school
- Partners with us and allow us time to work with all children, including those needing higher levels of support
- Understand and acknowledge that we do not expel children as they are learning these skills. We strive to serve individual needs while ensuring the safety of young children
- To best serve children, we may need to partner with social and emotional experts to help give a child the best foundation for academic and life success

Our Children

- Learn how to handle conflict in a healthy manner (using appropriate words and not hands)
- Develop confidence and self-efficacy
- Develop skills to help them control their behavior and emotions

Thank you for choosing to allow our staff to support your child's development. We are committed to each child's social emotional development and so we do not dismiss children from our program because of concerns with behavior. Behavior concerns tell us that children need more time, support and practice to develop their social and emotional skills. When serious concerns arise, we will partner with parents and professionals who specialize in supporting children's social and emotional health. On rare occasions, we may work with families to seek the best care for their child if all parties agree that our program can no longer meet the needs of an individual child.

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