

Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Center

7401 Winkler Road
Fort Myers, FL 33919
239/481-4040

Discipline Policy

Maintaining order, safety, and discipline in our Center life is very important. In order to be sure that everyone benefits from, and enjoys our Center's programs in a safe environment, it is necessary to establish the following disciplinary policy.

There are three basic areas of possible behavior problems. The following lists within each category are not intended to be complete lists, but rather examples of behaviors falling into each category. It is ultimately up to the teachers and the Director of the Center to determine if a behavior is problematic.

Disruptive Behavior

A child who is being disruptive is disrespectful to people or property, lying, interrupting speakers, making excessive noise, or not listening.

Abusive Behavior

A child who is being abusive is hitting, kicking, punching, biting, or stealing. He or she is being abusive when destroying property, or using unkind, abusive, threatening and/or obscene language.

Dangerous Behavior

A child who is endangering himself, herself, or others is one who is running off from the Center or group. Dangerous behavior also includes not following safety recommendations such as "no running in the hallways," "no playing in the restrooms," or "no running in a pool area." Any behavior that requires a teacher to devote themselves solely to one child for an extended period of time endangers the other children in the group and is therefore considered dangerous. A child is also displaying dangerous behavior when they are found to possess dangerous or harmful objects such as drugs, knives or batteries. Dangerous or harmful objects will be confiscated immediately.

Abusive and dangerous behavior will not and cannot be tolerated and therefore may result in immediate and strong action.

Disciplinary Plan of Action

1. The reasons the behavior is inappropriate will be explained and the child will be reminded of the appropriate behavior.
2. If the behavior does not improve, the child will need to remain in the direct company of a staff member at all times. Written notice will be given if this action is to be taken.
3. In the case of field trips, if a child still cannot control himself or herself, they will not be permitted on the next trip. It will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to find alternative care for the child. Written notice will be given if this action is to be taken. There will be no reimbursement of tuition or fees should this step be necessary.
4. If the behavior continues to be a problem while at the Center or on field trips, the child will not be permitted to attend the Center and/or field trips. Written notice will be given if this action is to be taken. Parents will NOT be reimbursed for tuition or for trip fees if this type of action is taken.
5. Behavior which endangers the child or others in the Center or on trips will not and cannot be tolerated. Therefore, dangerous behavior may result in immediate dismissal from the program.

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Discipline Agreement

I, _____, having read the discipline policy of Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Center agree to work with the Center staff in maintaining a safe, secure, and comfortable environment. I agree to make arrangements for alternative care for my child, _____, if it becomes necessary to help my child learn to exercise better self-control of his or her behavior.

I understand that I will receive written notice(s) of a severe or continual behavior problem throughout the process of addressing the problem. If I must make alternative arrangements, I will receive written notice which also includes the length of time this will be necessary, i.e. one day, one field trip, one week, all field trips, etc.

I also understand that I will not receive a tuition credit, nor will I be entitled to trip fee reimbursements if the staff should determine alternate arrangements are necessary.

I understand that the staff will use the alternative care option only after other methods have been tried and have proven ineffective in improving the situation. I also understand that behavior which endangers the child or others in the Center or on trips will not and cannot be tolerated. Therefore, dangerous behavior may result in immediate dismissal from the program.

I understand that the Director of the Center will be involved throughout the process, should a problem arise, and will have the final say in the matter.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date Signed