

## OAK STREET NURSERY SCHOOL INC. GUIDANCE AND DISCIPLINE POLICY

Guidance is an integral part of a preschool program if children are to learn in a safe environment and become self-directed individuals.

Good guidance requires that children be taught acceptable behaviour and find constructive and appropriate outlets for anger and frustration.

***Indirect guidance***, or preventative discipline, is obtained by creating a program with activities that interest the children. We understand that young children are just learning ways of behaving appropriately. By offering positive feedback on appropriate behaviour when we observe it, we let all the children know what is expected of them. Experiences are provided that challenge, but are not beyond the child's abilities. Activities are and will be adapted to meet the needs and abilities of each individual child. Through this, a supportive environment exists which encourages positive interactions between us and the children.

***Direct guidance*** methods that we use include demonstrations and verbal statements or instructions, which are simple and clear. We do not use any harsh, belittling or degrading responses, which would humiliate or undermine a child's respect.

When direct physical intervention is necessary, the child is helped to understand why his behaviour is unacceptable. A period sitting apart, but not isolated, from the group may be used if we feel the child needs a minute to escape the emotion of whatever the situation may be. At all times, respect for the child as he learns is vitally important. We do not use any form of physical punishment such as striking, shaking, shoving or spanking. We do not force a child to repeat physical movements. We do not deny any physical necessities such as shelter, clothing, food or toileting.

All guidance and discipline is aimed at helping children become self-directed, self-sufficient individuals, able to make wise choices, control their own behaviour, and enjoy being part of a pre-school group.