

Behavior & Discipline Policy

Updated October 25, 2022

Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Kind

Platinum Rule – “Treat others the way they want to be treated.”

Mulberry School stresses the growth of the whole, individual child. We cherish our differences and our uniqueness as individuals, but we are also a community. In that community every child has rights. They have the right to work without disruption, express oneself without interruption, work cooperatively within a group, play and live safely, be different and/or unique without fear or humiliation of censure, and have one’s work and property respected. In order to protect these rights, we feel all members of our community must be ready, be safe and be kind. We will achieve this by modeling these three beliefs and by using positive reinforcement, redirection, natural consequences, and consistency.

When children disagree or an unacceptable behavior occurs we believe in modeling and teaching the child how to problem solve to handle the situation. Children are expected to use their words to discuss and solve problems (dependent on age – this can be teacher driven).

If a situation arises in which a child is prohibiting other children from their school rights, then a teacher will follow the three steps below. All situations are handled appropriate to the behavior and teachers will talk with the student so that the student will learn from the situation.

1. Verbal Warning
2. Designated Calming Space to “Take a Break.”
3. Outside of the Classroom: The teacher will notify the front desk of the child heading to take a break. If extra help is needed the teacher will call the front desk from the cell phone or send another child up to request assistance. The student will have time to cool down and then will discuss the situation using our “What Happened/Next Time I will...” form. This form will be sent home with the child so the parents are aware of the situation. A copy will be made and added to the child's file.

If an unacceptable behavior is repeated, then the teacher will inform the parent to work together to identify why the behavior is reoccurring and the best plan of action to correct

the behavior. At any point, the teacher may take the assistance of the Non-Profit Director/ Administrative Assistant or Academic Coordinator.

In the event the behavior does not improve, the teacher will involve the Non-Profit Director & Academic Coordinator. At their discretion, they will continue to work with the child and parents to find a constructive plan to correct inappropriate behaviors. The school may suggest a referral to Unit #5 for behavioral concerns. The Non-Profit Director will provide a notice of the behavior issues to the Board of Directors, in an Executive Session, with appropriate background information and action plan details, if warranted to execute a potential change of contract or removal.

Further actions may include but not limited to; a reduction in the student's hours, increased supervision through the hiring of an assistant specifically for the student (at their parents' expense), or dismissal in extreme circumstances. The Board of s will consider the option(s) recommended by the Non-Profit Director & Academic Coordinator and input from the student's parents in their decision. Appropriate tuition refunds will be made in the case of hour changes or dismissal per the student contract.

The intent of this policy is to avoid the need for dismissal, but it is recognized that there are extreme cases where a student is so disruptive or aggressive that other students feel unsafe. Even in these cases, every reasonable effort will be made before dismissal is considered, as long as the safety of other children is not jeopardized. The Board of Directors and Staff will attempt to assist the student/family in finding a more appropriate educational opportunity going forward if dismissed.