

**LIGHT OF CHRIST EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
DISCIPLINE POLICY**

(updated September 2003)

In accordance with the revised child discipline regulations mandated by the Pinellas County License Board, Childcare facilities must ensure that age appropriate, constructive disciplinary practices are used for children in our care.

- ❖ It is prohibited for children to be subjected to discipline, which is severe, humiliating, frightening, or associated with food, rest, or toileting. Spanking or any other form of physical punishment is prohibited by all child care personnel.

The goal of Light of Christ Early Childhood Center is to provide a secure, loving environment for children. It is our philosophy to train the child in self-discipline by taking a positive approach and encouraging children through verbal clues, example and redirection.

The following approaches will be initiated:

- ❖ Simple class rules will be used so that the child knows what is appropriate behavior. Rules will be stated simply according to the child's age level. Reasons for the rules (example: safety) will be discussed so the children understand why something may or may not be done.
- ❖ To avoid or solve conflicts, choices will be used to allow the child the responsibility of solving the problem himself/herself. For example, if two children are fighting over the same toy, the second child will be given an opportunity to choose from other activities. "John had the animal puzzle first but you may use the farm puzzle or the bird puzzle"
- ❖ Redirecting the child's activity from an inappropriate response to an appropriate response. For example, if a child is throwing blocks, the teacher will say and demonstrate "Blocks are for building". If the child continues to throw, he/she will be taken away to engage in another activity.
- ❖ A child who exhibits aggressive behavior will be asked to take a "time out". The length of time will be dependent upon the age of the child, not to exceed 4 minutes (shorter length of time for younger children). The child will be removed from class if persistent aggressive behavior persists. Repetition of aggressive behavior and the inability to follow preschool rules may be an indication that the child is a candidate for referral.
- ❖ Parents will be notified and are expected to cooperate in cases of discipline and/or learning problems. If the parents fail to cooperate, the child will be dismissed from the Center.

My signature below indicates that I have received and read a copy of the Discipline Policy.

(Signature)

(Date)