

First Church Preschool Guidance and Discipline Policy

In early childhood education classes challenging behavior occurs from time to time. During the first five years of life children are just beginning to learn how to handle their own intense emotions and conform to the behavior expectations of society. As parents know, this can be a long and difficult process.

At First Church Preschool we define challenging behavior as any behavior that:

- Interferes with children's learning, development and success at play and learning
- Is harmful to the child, other children, or adults
- Puts a child at high risk for later social problems or school failure

Such behavior can be direct (e.g. hitting, pushing, biting, kicking) or indirect (e.g. teasing, ignoring rules and instructions, excluding others, name-calling, destroying objects, having temper tantrums.)

At First Church Preschool we teach children to handle their emotions and behavior by:

- Teachers modeling appropriate and positive behavior
- Designing the physical environment to minimize conflict
- Maintaining age-appropriate expectations for children's behavior
- Closely observe and supervising children's activities and interactions
- Helping children verbalize their feelings, frustrations, and concerns
- Removing a child that endangers the other children to a supervised space where they can regain composure.
- Discipline and/or guidance will be positive, productive and immediate when behavior is inappropriate.

When a pattern of behavior persists that endangers self, others, or property, or significantly disrupts the program, we will work with a child's family to find solutions, up to and including referral for outside services, suspension, or exclusion from the First Church Preschool program.

Child: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____