



GUIDANCE/BEHAVIOR POLICY

At Collina Kids Academy, we understand that the true definition of “discipline” is “to teach”. Our philosophy is simple – good behavior is learned by doing and by experience.

learn by doing	imparare con la pratica
learn by experience	imparare per esperienza

It is not only normal for young children to test rules and limits, it's developmentally appropriate. Part of being a child means learning where the limits are. Children at Collina Kids Academy will learn good behavior through their environment, their teachers, and the atmosphere. *Good Behavior* is taught by offering well-organized stimulating classrooms that minimize opportunities for inappropriate behavior to occur. There are no “idle hands” at Collina Kids Academy. We also understand that age is the most critical factor in defining good behavior. Children can only be asked to do so much based on their age. Our staff focus on dependable routines and clear, consistent, developmentally appropriate rules and expectations.

How We Teach Good Behavior

- ❑ Each classroom is designed to offer many opportunities for children to make positive choices in activities, friends, and interactions.
- ❑ Children learn to behave positively. If a child doesn't get sufficient attention for behaving well, they'll likely get it by behaving badly. However, specific, immediate and sincere praise will positively affect a child's self esteem and positive behavior will follow.
- ❑ Teachers provide children with immediate feedback for negative behaviors by clearly explaining to the child why the behavior was inappropriate and providing the child with alternative choices for good behaviors.
- ❑ Ultimately, the most powerful reward for a young child is an adult's time and attention. We teach good behavior by offering plenty of time, love and attention.

Addressing Difficult Behavior

Children are not permitted to hurt themselves or others. This includes both physically and emotionally harmful actions such as name-calling or belittling friends. If a child is having difficulty making good decisions, the child will be given short periods of “time out” for guidance and then taught positive decisions. Consistent behavioral issues will be discussed as a team with the parents, and teachers so that we can work out a solution together.

Our Guidance Policy is in compliance with State of Florida Child Care Statutes; 402.305 Licensing Standards; Childcare Facilities, (12) Child Discipline (see below).

(a) Minimum standards for child discipline practices shall ensure that age-appropriate, constructive disciplinary practices are used for children in care. Such standards shall include at least the following requirements:

1. Children shall not be subjected to discipline which is severe, humiliating, or frightening.
2. Discipline shall not be associated with food, rest, or toileting.
3. Spanking or any other form of physical punishment is prohibited.

(b) Prior to admission of a child to a child care facility, the facility shall notify the parents in writing of the disciplinary practices used by the facility.