

ALLAIRE COUNTRY DAY

Discipline Policy

At Allaire Country Day we believe a child will develop to his/her fullest potential through positive methods of guidance and discipline. Allaire Country Day operates under the premise that young children are never “bad”. The types of inappropriate behavior most often seen in pre-school aged (including temper tantrums, refusal to cooperate, hitting other children, and failure to follow rules) are usually the result of the child’s level of development. For these reasons the staff uses the following guidelines for promoting positive behavior and for responding to problem behavior.

At Allaire Country Day we *do not hit or paddle children*. Hitting is often misunderstood by a young child, who does not always see the connection between a slap and some action on his part.

At Allaire Country Day we *do not shout or yell at children*. Yelling usually frightens children and distracts them from the problem. Shouting, which is often accompanied by name calling on the part of the adult, also damages a child’s self-esteem.

While Allaire Country Day staff respects the right of every parent to discipline his or her own child in a personal way (except where child abuse or neglect is concerned), parents who volunteer at Allaire Country Day may not hit or shout at any child including their own. Hitting or shouting at a child in the presence of others upsets everyone and disturbs the classroom routine.

Acceptable ways of disciplining children

The policies of Allaire Country Day regarding discipline do not mean that the staff wants to permit inappropriate behavior. Instead, the staff wishes to mold or change behavior using positive techniques including:

1. Developing with children rules that are stated at the children’s developmental level.
2. Clarifying the consequences of disobeying rules before disobedience occurs, for example, “If you hit one of your friends you will not be allowed to play.”
3. Having age-appropriate expectations of children. We do not expect children to understand and obey complex rules.
4. Allowing children time to practice obeying new rules before punishing them for disobeying.
5. Ignoring some kinds of behavior. Some misbehavior is an attempt to get attention. The more attention the child gets, the more likely it is that the behavior will be repeated.
6. Giving a timeout for other types of inappropriate behavior. A timeout is another way of telling a child that his or her behavior is not acceptable. A

timeout takes the child away from friends and activity, giving him or her a chance to start over or clam down.

7. Reinforcing desirable behavior by praising or rewarding the child. When the child realizes that attention comes from inappropriate, that behavior is more likely to continue.

Roles of Parents in the Discipline Process

Children are most likely to respond to attempts to discipline them when the adults involved are consistent; that is, when every adult who disciplines the child uses similar techniques.

Parents often find it difficult to be consistent at those times when family or financial pressures, or other stresses seem more important than a child's misbehavior. The parent may feel that keeping the child quiet; whatever it takes, is the only solution at that moment.

However, there are solutions. One of the many roles of the Allaire Country Day staff is to work with the parents to help children develop appropriate behaviors. Parents are invited and urged to discuss their concerns about their children's behavior with teachers and to plan together with staff means of responding consistently to problem behaviors. In this way, children will always get the same message from the important adults in their lives (parents and teachers) about those behaviors that are acceptable and those that are not.