

Positive Guidance Approach

The Kiddie Academy® System has developed a detailed set of guidance policies regarding children's behavior. Every member of our staff is required to follow each policy when working with our children. The goal of our program is to provide a strong social and emotional foundation for all children at Kiddie Academy of Little Neck within a safe and nurturing environment.

Supporting young children's social and emotional development is the key to preventing challenging behaviors. Children who learn social and emotional skills during early childhood have: a greater chance of lifelong school success, better self-control, are better able to express and manage emotions, and develop more positive relationships with peers and adults.

The Kiddie Academy approach to Positive Guidance is based on the understanding that young children need to learn the skills necessary to develop socially and emotionally. In the same way we teach early math and literacy skills, we also teach self-regulation and problem solving. We do this by:

- Recognizing and praising appropriate and positive behaviors.
- Developing positive relationships and making connections with every child
- Using redirection to an alternate activity when necessary
- Providing a space in the classroom for calming down when a child becomes frustrated or is upset
- Teaching calm down strategies that include thinking of solutions to problems when they arise
- Encouraging friendships and teaching the meaning of fairness and kindness among the children in the classroom
- Teaching children to identify their own feelings, the feelings of others, and how to express them appropriately.

In the event that a child is having difficulty with inappropriate behaviors, it is our intent to support the child by working together with the family to develop a plan for improving behavior.

Other resources, professionals and /or local agencies may be utilized in support of the implementation of Positive Guidance expectations. Families will be asked to provide permission for engaging these resources, professionals, or agencies. These services may incur an out-of-pocket cost to the family.

In the event that all possible interventions and strategies have been exhausted, exclusionary measures, such as suspension or expulsion, will be considered. Our goal is to limit exclusionary measures and will only be considered when the health and safety of the child, other children, or staff is jeopardized. Examples include but are not limited to violent behavior (kicking, punching, throwing), extreme biting, or threatening harm to others. Exclusionary measures are not taken unless it is determined to be in the best interest of the child and the other children enrolled in the Academy. Before a decision is made to suspend or expel a child, teachers and management will work together with families to resolve the behavior using all other positive behavior methods as stated in the policy.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Enrollment/Start Date: _____