

## Statement on Children Guidance

Becoming self-disciplined is a long-term process. One of the major tasks in an early childhood classroom is assisting children with this process. At Shining Star Pre-School, we are committed to supporting each child's progress toward becoming independent and self-disciplined. In practice, we provide an environment that encourages children to make choices and decisions with a limited number of rules. We promote freedom within our environment as long as children do not disrupt or disregard the few rules that we do have. We do not allow children to hurt themselves, to hurt others, to hurt other people's feelings, or to damage property. We help the children to quickly learn our routines and these few rules.

Generally, children need guidance in using materials and interacting with others. At Shining Star Pre-School, if after an initial reminder, a child continues to use materials inappropriately, the child is directed to another area. This logical sequence is a clear reminder to children that materials have appropriate uses. If two children are in a conflict, they are encouraged to negotiate and discuss alternatives to solve the conflict peacefully. In some cases, this requires a good deal of teacher support and modeling. With practice, children can become independent in conflict resolution. In instances where children are repeatedly disruptive, out of control, or injuring themselves or others, they are removed from the group for the short time it takes for them to be calm enough to discuss alternative behaviors. They are then assisted in rejoining the group.

In our child-centered environment, children are actively involved and challenged and, consequently, classroom problems are minimized. Within a framework of trusting relationships with teachers and aides, each child is individually assisted in increasing their levels of self-discipline and independence.

Throughout this process, the children attending Shining Star Preschool are under the direct supervision of Shining Star Preschool staff members at all times they are in attendance.