



# ADVENTURES WITH RITA

## **Childcare and STEAM Academy**

**4008 Pontoon Road**

**Myla Jackson, Executive Director**

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**[adventureswithrita.org](http://adventureswithrita.org)**

### **Discipline Policy**

Often in pre-school settings, conflicts will arise between children. AWR attempts to allow children to work out conflicts or frustrations with their peers and without immediate adult intervention. However, if a child is having difficulty, the staff will intervene by suggesting words or actions that the child can use to convey the message the child is trying to communicate. Extremely aggressive or hostile behavior, or repeated problems, may result in redirecting the child or removing the child from the other children for a short time. We use these methods to help children resolve conflicts because we believe that if you give children the opportunity to be responsible for working out problems, they learn to accept the logical consequences of their behavior.

Praise and positive reinforcement are effective methods of behavior management of children. When children receive positive, nonviolent, and understanding interactions from adults and others, they develop good self-concepts, problem solving abilities, and self-discipline. Based on this belief, AWR uses a positive approach to discipline and practices the following discipline and behavior management techniques.

**WE DO:**

- Communicate to children using positive statements.
- Communicate with children on their level.
- Talk with children in a calm quiet manner.
- Explain unacceptable behavior to children.
- Give attention to children for positive behavior.
- Praise and encourage the children.
- Reason with and set limits for the children.
- Apply rules consistently.
- Model appropriate behavior.
- Set up the classroom environment to prevent problems.
- Provide alternatives and redirect children to acceptable activity.
- Give children opportunities to make choices and solve problems.
- Help children talk out problems and think of solutions.
- Listen to children and respect the children's needs, desires and feelings.
- Provide appropriate words to help solve conflicts.
- Use storybooks and discussion to work through common conflicts.

**WE DO NOT:**

- Inflict corporal punishment in any manner upon a child. (Corporal punishment is defined as the use of physical force to the body as a discipline measure. Physical force to the body includes, but is not limited to, spanking, hitting, shaking, biting, pinching, pushing, pulling, or slapping.)
- Use any strategy that hurts, shames, or belittles a child.
- Use any strategy that threatens, intimidates, or forces a child.
- Use food as a form of reward or punishment.
- Use or withhold physical activity as a punishment.
- Shame or punish a child if a bathroom accident occurs.
- Embarrass any child in front of others.
- Compare children.
- Place children in a locked and/or dark room.
- Leave any child alone, unattended or without supervision.
- Allow discipline of a child by other children.

Criticize, make fun of, or otherwise belittle a child's parents, families, or ethnic groups.

Conferences will be scheduled with parents if particular disciplinary problems occur.

Child care staff shall help individual children develop self-control and assume responsibility for their own actions. Imposing physical activity or withholding active play shall not be used on children as a form of discipline.

1) Limits and consequences shall be clear and understandable to the child, consistently enforced and explained to the child before and as part of any disciplinary action.

2) Discipline shall be developmentally appropriate and logically related to the child's act and shall not be out of proportion to the particular inappropriate behavior. The child shall be made aware of the relationship between the act and the consequences.

3) Firm positive statements about behaviors or redirection of behaviors shall be the accepted techniques for use with infants and toddlers.

4) Removal from the group to help a child gain control shall not exceed one minute per year of age. Removal from the group shall not be used for children less than 24 months of age.

5) Children shall not be disciplined for toilet accidents.

**The following behaviors are prohibited at AWR:**

Corporal punishment, including hitting, spanking, swatting, beating, shaking, pinching and other measures intended to induce physical pain or fear; threatened or actual withdrawal of food, rest or use of the bathroom; abusive or profane language; any form of public or private humiliation, including threats of physical punishment; and any form of emotional abuse, including shaming, rejecting, terrorizing, or isolating a child.

**Preschool and school-age children shall have reasonable opportunities to resolve their own conflicts.**

Discipline shall be the responsibility of adults who have an ongoing relationship with the child.

When there is a specific plan for responding to a child's pattern of unacceptable behavior, all staff who affect the child shall be aware of the plan and cooperate in its implementation.

Clinical behavior management plans may be developed to meet the needs of a particular child if developed with the parent and a professional clinician. This must

be documented in the child's file. All staff working with the child shall receive training on implementing the plan.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, received a copy of the Discipline Policy for Adventures with Rita Childcare Center and STEAM Academy on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

I understand that I am being asked to review the information contained within, and that I may raise any questions that I have about the stated policies with the Executive Director of Adventures with Rita or the owner.

I understand and agree to follow the policies and procedures as stated in this policy book. I understand that I am responsible for ensuring that any person authorized to act on my behalf for my child understands the policies and procedures stated in this Parent Handbook. I understand that failure to adhere to the policies of the discipline policy may result in my child's enrollment being terminated by Adventures with Rita Childcare Center and STEAM Academy.

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Print Parent Name  
\_\_\_\_\_ date

\_\_\_\_\_ Print Child's Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Print Child's Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

Executive Director, Adventures with Rita Daycare and STEAM Academy

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

