

## Pre-primary Behaviour Guidance Policy

At the South Shore Regional Centre for Education Pre-primary Programs, we create an environment that will set children up for success. This means careful planning on the part of the educators to promote a positive and proactive atmosphere that supports children in developing their sense of well-being. These are important skills that children will engage in developing as seen in our curriculum framework. Educators will create spaces where children:

- *feel safe, secure and supported*
- *become strong in their social and emotional well-being*
- *take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical well-being*
- *develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities*

In instances where children are communicating with challenging behaviour, educators will employ developmentally appropriate practices in order to guide children through regulating and replacing these behaviours. Techniques will include:

- Supporting children in their emotional literacy through daily discussions, play-based learning and visuals.
- Adults will use respectful, warm, caring and responsive language and/or actions at all times, including when responding to children when they are experiencing discomfort or are upset.
- Adults will use clear, positive language (verbal and visual) to promote desired behaviours.
- Educators will model and provide opportunities for learning replacement behaviours. Children will be a part of the process for talking about and explaining limits and expectations for the learning environment and playing with others.
- Promoting and reinforcing desired behaviours through social praise and natural consequences. Techniques may also include “planned ignoring” of specific behaviours (not the child).
- Educators will remember that behaviours do not make the child.

In the event that a child exhibits behaviour that becomes a consistent safety concern the lead educator will contact families to meet and create a Positive Behaviour Support Plan. This includes useful strategies and/or supports required to assist the child in learning replacement behaviours.

Educators will be trained in appropriate methods for de-escalating safety concerns. This may involve transitioning the rest of the children to an alternative learning space.

**Children will not be suspended or expelled from the Pre-primary Program.**

Educators will be subject to the Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy where applicable to the pre- primary setting and will not engage in inappropriate responses to behaviours such as:

- Corporal or physical punishment
- Use of harsh, degrading or coercive methods when speaking to children
- Reacting to children physically
- Confining or isolating a child
- Deprive of or withhold basic needs such as food, water or clothing
- Sending a child home early due to communication through behaviours