

## GUIDING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR

### **Aim:**

To have guidelines for managing student behaviour which are firstly God-centred, encourage children to cooperate, be aware of and interact positively with others and enhance the child's self-esteem.

Educators recognise that each child is an individual and has the right to be cared for in a safe environment.

### **Explanation:**

Behaviour guidance is intended to help children know what to do instead of what not to do.

When a child is redirected or stopped, Educators should explain why. This will assist children to make judgements about what he/she can and cannot do.

The Centre aims to foster behaviour based on control of self and understanding and appreciation of other people's needs, rights and feelings. This can be linked to the Fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

Praise and encouragement should be used regularly to reinforce positive behaviours. Educators need to be conscious of the child's developmental level.

Self-discipline can only be achieved if the children are aware of the expectations. Expectations need to be consistently reinforced by each Educator.

### **Implementation:**

Staff will encourage socially appropriate behaviour through positive reinforcement and guidance.

Children will not be subjected to or threatened with any form of corporal punishment.

No child will be force-fed or have food withdrawn as a punishment.

Children will be encouraged to be involved in setting room rules or expectations.

No child will be subjected to or threatened with any punishment that requires immobilisation, solitary confinement, or has the intention of frightening or humiliating the child.

### **Staff must have clear view of children at all times.**

When a child's behaviour starts to adversely affect the learning environment, the matter should be discussed with the Director taking into account why, when and how the incident occurred. A plan of action, involving behaviour modification techniques, should be developed and implemented. The seeking of outside professional help may be recommended at times.

If a child's behaviour affects other children the following steps are to be followed:

- a) The concern must be documented as part of the child's individual observations. Records should include the incident, the offender and the victim, date and time of occurrence.
- b) Appropriate behaviour management techniques must be implemented.
- c) Parents are to be notified of their child's involvement in any behaviour incident when the children are collected, preferably by the Room Leader or the Nominated Supervisor. The incident report should be signed if required. Follow up with a phone call if the parent didn't collect the child.
- d) Strategies of behaviour management should be discussed with staff members to ensure consistency.

If no solution can be found then the following steps should be taken:

When behaviour is shown by a number of observations, to be consistent, then it may be recommended that a referral be made. It is the parent's responsibility as to how they act upon the centre/staff recommendations. However, since it is the centre's responsibility to provide a safe environment the safety needs of other children and staff must be considered.