



## DISCIPLINE POLICY

“The mind of the young child is different from ours...  
When we recognize the limitations of reaching him  
through verbal instructions, then the whole concept  
of education changes. It becomes a matter of  
providing an appropriate environment,  
not forcing our words upon his ears”  
Maria Montessori

The environment at RMS is designed to offer young children appropriate activities, at corresponding developmental levels, in a comfortable and non-threatening atmosphere. Our main goal is to promote: self-control, self-discipline, and independence in each child.

There are times to make choices, work independently, function co-operatively as a group, and interact socially without adult direction. During the class time when children are allowed to choose activities and work independently, they function under the Montessori philosophy known as “Freedom within limits”, wherein a set of classroom and personal rules channel their actions and behavior.

These rules encompass safety, appropriate social behavior, maintenance of the environment, and the right to work undisturbed with a chosen activity, without interference from other classmates. During co-operative group time, positive verbal reinforcement and direction are used, when necessary. After speaking to a child in this manner, if a situation still needs correction, the child will be taken aside to discuss his particular behavior with the teacher. If necessary, a time out chair within the classroom is used for a period of three minutes. Behavior is then discussed again and the child is invited to continue with his group.

A child who loses control of himself is given adult attention until he has gained control, and is ready to join his class again. Minor behavior corrections are handled in class. A child who needs to discuss his actions with the teacher is given one to one attention, and is not made to do so in front of his peers. Parents are contacted if behavior becomes disruptive to the class, or to the child, himself. Minor or infrequent misbehavior is addressed to the parent at the teacher’s discretion.

Discipline is not associated with the behavior of children in regard to rest, toilet training or food. At all times, it is the goal of RMS staff to: teach and model appropriate behavior, use positive techniques which are consistent with the developmental needs of the children, anticipate and avoid situations that may lead to aggressive or negative behavior, and to help the children learn to anticipate the consequences of their actions in positive ways. Helping children to gain independence has proven to be a positive and enjoyable way to lead them down the path to self-control and self-discipline.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_