

Jump Frog Day Care

Child Guidance Policy¹

Our philosophy at the centre is to encourage the children to use positive behaviour by allowing them to be part of a kind, loving and sharing environment. We endeavour through positive reinforcement, such as words of praise, loving gestures, and redirection. This encourages the children to follow the pursuits of positive behaviour. We also ensure that the children are treated in a manner that maintains their self-respect and positive reinforcements to self-esteem.

Limits and guidelines are necessary to ensure the child's development and safety. These limits, the reasons for their existence, and the logical consequences are explained to older children (usually about 3 years of age or older). Redirection or distraction is used for younger children and infants (e.g., 0–3 years of age). Using good communication skills, the child care worker will be consistent in role modeling these guidelines thereby creating a secure environment where the children know what is acceptable.

Older children are encouraged to solve problems independently through positive guidance and support from the caregiver. Child care workers may offer ideas or ask questions to promote problem solving, but every opportunity is given to allow the children to resolve the conflict themselves. When adult intervention is necessary, the child care worker offers choices of behaviour to redirect their play. If the chosen behaviour is not followed through, logical consequences will result. For example, if a 5-year-old child is playing inappropriately with paints at the craft table and the paints spill onto the floor, then the child will be asked to help clean up the spill.

In some cases (where safety is a concern), a child may be redirected to spend a short time away from the group where the problem is discussed with the caregiver. The purpose of the time away is to break the pattern of behaviour, to separate the child from the problem, and, if necessary, to allow children time to themselves until they are ready to talk about the problem. This method will be used when all other child guidance strategies have been tried and the safety or freedom of another child is at risk. The redirection must **never** be at a predetermined location such as a "time-out chair." Rather, the child should be redirected to a quiet activity area, such as the reading centre. An "Incident/Accident Report" may need to be completed and the parent made aware of the circumstances.

All child care workers are role models for acceptable behaviour. They are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. When adults are polite and considerate of other adults and children, they set the tone for everyone.

¹ This Child Guidance Policy is an edited excerpt from the *Parent Handbook* of a day care operating in Alberta. This day care's willingness to share documents is appreciated. The name of the day care has been changed to protect the identities of the owners and the child care providers who work at the day care.

The child's self-esteem must be maintained at all times when guiding children's behaviour. A child care worker must never hit, slap, grab, pinch, ridicule, humiliate, or ignore any child.

The emphasis of this process is on the development of self-discipline and problem-solving skills, rather than on punishing the child. Allowing the child to express thoughts and feelings and to make choices about behaviour nurtures a positive self-image and problem-solving skills that will take them into adolescence positively.