



Hamilton Area YMCA Child Learning & Development Expulsion Policy

DISCIPLINARY PHILOSOPHY

At the Y, discipline is handled with much care and thought. Positive discipline is used to help promote social and emotional growth. We use two methods for promoting positive behavior. First, we reinforce acceptable behavior with verbal rewards. Second, we talk with children to help them make better choices, discuss follow up with a parent/guardian and allow the children to rejoin activities. The benefits of a behavior report are to encourage positive behaviors and/or correct a situation in a positive manner with parents as our partners.

We encourage the children to develop self-control to solve minor conflicts in a peaceful way. However, at times, children behave inappropriately. Some behaviors may even be injurious to themselves or others. We feel, in order to preserve the safety of the children, these behaviors must be controlled. We will implement the guidance and direction necessary for healthy growth and development. Parents will be notified when negative behavior becomes a concern.

SCHOOL CONDUCT

We expect the children to conduct themselves in a manner that is age appropriate, showing respect for others and for school property. Proper behavior is a cooperative effort between parents and staff. It would be very helpful if you could reinforce the school rules with your child.

Appropriate behavior defined as:

- Respect for others
- Respect for school property
- Use good listening skills
- Keep your hands, feet, and all objects to yourself
- Be polite

Inappropriate behavior defined as:

- Behavior on the part of the child that interferes with the safety or well-being of himself/herself, or any other person.
- Behavior that takes a staff member away from working in ratio.
- Verbal disrespect of YMCA staff or other children
- Lack of respect for property and/or the property of others.
- Abusive language or gestures.

EXPULSION FROM PROGRAM

Our intent is to work as a team with parents or guardians for the best care plan for each child. A teamwork approach is the only way to correct repeated inappropriate behavior. Your patience, support, and follow through are necessary and greatly appreciated.

The YMCA reserves the right to expel a child from its programs for any of the following reasons:

1. The child's needs are not being met in our small or large group setting.
2. Failure of parent/guardian to provide information and/or follow the guidelines required of the YMCA and by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families.
3. The child is a safety threat to himself/herself, other children, or the YMCA staff.

If it is determined that a child needs to be removed from the program, a two-week notice will be provided, to enable parents to make alternate child care arrangements, except as specified in following paragraph.

If the behavior is defined as potentially dangerous, then it is grounds for immediate expulsion from the program. Potentially dangerous behavior is defined as, but not limited to; inappropriate sexual behavior, verbal or physical abuse towards a child or staff member, bringing a weapon to school.