

YOUNG HORIZONS DAY CARE CENTER DISCIPLINE POLICY

PUNISHMENT: 1. The act of punishment; 2. Retributive suffering, pain, or loss, a penalty inflicted on offender through judicial procedure; 3. Severe, rough or disastrous treatment.

DISCIPLINE: 1. Training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character; 2. Orderly conduct, or pattern behavior; 3. To train or develop by instruction and exercise, especially in self-control.

TAKEN FROM: WEBSTER'S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY

Young Horizons Day Care center uses the approach of discipline vs. punishment when a behavior modification is necessary. Staff will continuously supervise children during disciplinary actions. Staff shall not be abusive, neglectful or use corporal, humiliating or frightening punishment under any circumstances. No child will be physically restrained unless it is necessary to protect the safety or health of the child or others, using least restrictive methods, as appropriate. The goal of discipline is to help the child develop self-control and move toward appropriate social behavior. Examples of developmentally appropriate methods utilized for resolving conflicts are:

Positive Guidance- When disputes arise among children or between a child and staff, the staff will encourage a "talking out" process where the goal is to acknowledge feelings and find solutions using the children's ideas wherever possible.

Setting clear limits- Staff will encourage and model positive behavior, positive reinforcement, the use of peer support and clearly defined rules.

Redirection- Occasionally, the care giver will use "timeout" which is a brief supervised period away from the group to give the child the opportunity to gain control. The care giver will help the child to process what has happened; explain to the child what would have been a better way to handle the situation and that feelings are "ok" but the behavior was not. The child may then be asked to make an activity choice in another area.

The director has discussed this discipline policy with the parent or caregiver of the child enrolled.

Date: _____

Signed by parent/caregiver: _____

Director: Michele Johnson