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## Discipline Policy

Greenwich Nursery School seeks to teach attitudes by demonstrating and encouraging the kinds of attitudes that make for harmony, understanding and tolerance. It teaches control of impulses by clearly limiting and discouraging destructive behavior and by offering acceptable substitutes as well as opportunities for discussion. We hope to obtain these goals through the following steps:

- Emphasize the positive behavior rather than the negative
- Prevent discipline situations when possible
- Increase the child's self-worth so that he/she feels stronger and in better control of himself/herself

The following steps are used in a discipline situation:

- Verbal discussion with the child and redirection
- Removal of the child from activity while keeping the child with the teacher
- Wait for the child to make a decision to return to the activity
- Help child return to the activity and be successful

Consistent use of this approach proves to be effective in helping children gain self-control.

**Differentiating between discipline and punishment:** Preschool teachers avoid doling out punishment in its usual form. They do however allow a form of punishment when it is appropriate. This is simply permitting the child to experience the natural consequences of his/her behavior. Thus the child who pulls all the blocks off the shelf must help put them away. The child who writes on the walls or tables must help wash the walls or the tables before going to another activity. This allows young children the ability to see the fairness of punishment that fits their inappropriate activity so suitably and appreciate the justice of a consequence that stems logically from the action. It is not necessary to be unpleasant or moralistic when any of these situations transpire. It is the teacher's responsibility to only make certain that the child experience the logical outcome of his/her behavior.