

Morley Extended Day Care
Policy regarding BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS and MANAGEMENT / Statement of Understanding

MEDC's Mission Statement is to 'nurture individual children's growth in a safe, comfortable, and enriching environment' where they feel welcome and secure.

MEDC strives to provide equitable access to child care for all families. We foster an open and accepting environment and uphold an inclusion-based philosophy with respect to all activities and programming. We provide choices and opportunities for children to make decisions and accept consequences.

The MEDC staff is committed to providing the safest environment for each child by setting reasonable limits and monitoring children's behavior. We also acknowledge our responsibility to take appropriate action if inappropriate behaviors are exhibited by a child or by a group of children.

The following behaviors are not acceptable at MEDC because they set bad examples for others, disrupt the activities of other children, or endanger the personal safety of children and/or staff:

- Bullying (physical, verbal, or emotional) or intimidating/ threatening
- Using inappropriate physical contact (such as hitting, kicking, spitting, fighting, etc.)
- Swearing or using inappropriate language
- Disregard for basic rules and conduct expectations
- Destruction of school or MEDC property

While we do everything we can to provide modifications and special accommodations, we are not staffed or equipped to provide proper care and attention to children with extraordinary needs. Families whose children work with a one-to-one paraprofessional, are part of Morley's Learning Center or follow an IEP during the school day must consult with the Director prior to enrollment to ensure that MEDC will be a good fit and a successful environment for the child.

If, in the opinion of our staff, your child is unable to maintain appropriate behaviors and/or puts the wellbeing of other children or staff in jeopardy, or risks injury to himself/herself, the following actions will be taken:

- Staff will use respectful positive discipline techniques to guide and redirect the child's behavior.
- If the misbehavior persists, the child will be removed from the activity and placed in supervised time-out. At the end of a specified amount of time (~1 min/ year of age), the counselor and the child will briefly review the incident and will brainstorm alternative strategies in case the incident recurs.
- The parent or guardian will receive a 'Caring and Sharing' note describing the incident and the action taken, to be signed and returned by the parent, and/or will discuss the issue in person at pick up.
- At the discretion of the Director, a meeting may be called between the child, the parents/guardians, and the Director. Solutions to ongoing behavioral problems will be discussed and may include a Behavior Modification Plan.
- In cases of severe or dangerous misbehavior, a parent or guardian will be called and asked to pick up the child within one hour. The child may be suspended for a period of two or more days and will not be permitted to return to MEDC until all parties have met to determine whether the structure of our program is suitable for the child. If it is decided that the child may continue attending MEDC, a behavior plan will be implemented to encourage positive behaviors and the child will be placed on probationary status.
- If another incident occurs after the above-listed measures have been taken, **OR** if misbehavior is persistent or severe (such as aggressive, destructive, or anti-social displays), **OR** if the behavior (even if not persistent) is (in the judgment of the MEDC Director and staff) dangerous to the child or others in the program, the child may be permanently dismissed from MEDC. A child who is permanently dismissed is not eligible for reinstatement.

By **SIGNING AND RETURNING** a copy of this contract, I acknowledge that I both understand the terms outlined in this policy and have had the opportunity to review and discuss it with the Director during a "New Family Orientation". Thank you.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Child's name (Please PRINT) _____