

(Required Posting)

DISCIPLINE

Our discipline policy stresses the welfare, respect and responsibilities of all students. Children are introduced to the rules of the school by their Guides in a timely and appropriate manner. Portland Montessori School staff are trained in the **Love and Logic** philosophy of offering the children the skills of responsible behavior coupled with choices and consequences. All parents are strongly encouraged to participate in parent education classes on the subject of **Love and Logic** to maximize the benefit to both child and family. Classes are offered by trained staff at Portland Montessori or can be found in the larger community.

Responses to non-compliant behavior will be:

1. Gentle reminder of rules/safety along with redirection of the child as appropriate.
2. If non-compliant behavior continues after reminders or redirection, "calming time" may be necessary. During this period removal of the child from a current activity may be most appropriate. Child may stay at adult's side or take a brief break in a "calming chair."
3. When the child is calm, talking with him/her privately to help the child determine the cause of the problem and correct his/her behavior. Redirection may be used as well as offering the child an opportunity to rejoin friends and activities when they are ready to choose appropriate behavior.
4. If the child does not show any signs of correcting an inappropriate behavior, a loss of a privilege may be appropriate.
5. Inappropriate behavior that continues or becomes more severe may indicate a concern that needs to be evaluated by other professionals. We expect to work with families closely if such a situation develops. In such cases the parents/guardians will be contacted to discuss the situation and to attempt to work out a mutual plan to help the child.

The Portland Montessori School Head of School reserves the right to suspend, expel and/or to refuse school services to a family for the following good causes:

1. Inability of staff and family to work together in a congenial and cohesive manner.
2. Repeated disruptive behavior which impedes the progress of the rest of the class and/or infringes on the rights of others.
3. Damage to school property.
4. Infliction of or threatened physical injury to another person.
5. Disruption of school activities.
6. Defiance of school authority.
7. Failure to pay school tuition and charges.

The Portland Montessori School Head of School will review all complaints and the responses rendering a final decision.

Consistency, kindness, and fair and equal treatment of all children are required of staff. Corporal punishment and withholding food are not considered acceptable forms of discipline for any reason and are therefore prohibited in all school-sponsored activities by all staff members.