

Asheville Montessori School

Code of Conduct

Asheville Montessori School (AMS) believes that all children desire to be productive, and in control of themselves. We also believe discipline should include acknowledging the child's contributions, respecting his/her achievements, and acknowledging his/her progress. To that end, our discipline policy is designed to help our students develop self-discipline and self-respect.

Beginning with orientation and throughout the school year, the children are made aware of appropriate and considerate behavior, and why these are necessary for the enjoyment and harmony of the group. Through gentle reminders and consistent modeling, the children become sensitive to the needs of others, and develop a respect for their learning environment. When a gentle reminder is not enough, the teacher will intervene respectfully, but firmly, to stop the behavior. The teacher will redirect the child towards more positive, productive activity, so that he/she is able to feel proud of himself/herself and his/her accomplishments.

If used consistently, this positive approach to discipline is extremely effective with most children. If a child does not respond, parent(s) or guardian(s) will be called for a conference. Through close cooperation between home and school, effective solutions can usually be found.

If a child becomes too disruptive to remain in the classroom, her parent(s) will be notified. In the event that a child becomes extremely disruptive, the child's parent or guardian will be notified and expected to retrieve the child as soon as it is feasible.

While a Montessori environment is normally successful with a very wide range of students, nothing is right for every child. One of our greatest challenges is to be objective, compassionate, yet realistic in considering the needs of each child as a unique individual. When we fail, despite our best efforts to work with the child to help him/her meet appropriate behavioral expectations, we sadly and reluctantly must counsel the family to seek out another school setting in which the child can be successful.

Policy on Biting: It is our belief that a young child who bites *usually* does so without malice. It is often as an expression of anger and frustration. Nonetheless, biting is extremely dangerous. A child who bites will be excluded from the group, then soothed and comforted, and shown ways to express his/her feelings safely. Because biting is an unacceptable behavior, both sets of parents will be notified immediately, and a plan of remediation will be enacted. A meeting with the director and parents will follow if further biting occurs. If the solutions planned and enacted are ineffective, and the child continues to bite, this child will not be able to remain enrolled at Asheville Montessori School.

As a parent of a child enrolled at AMS, I agree:

1. To support the staff in helping my child to develop appropriate classroom behavior and self-discipline.
2. If my child does not respond to the school's discipline policy after the best efforts of the parents and staff, she/he must be withdrawn from the school.
3. Grounds for immediate action include dangerous behavior, deliberate destruction of the learning environment, and severe disruption of the class.
4. To support the policies, goals and overall well being of AMS through positive communication with staff and other parents.
5. To help maintain an atmosphere of peace by bringing matters of concern to the attention of the staff through appropriate channels of communication, and by recognizing that the Director will be the final arbitrator of all matters.