

Gentle Conflict Resolution Agreement for Instructors and Parents

Purpose

We believe the best way for all to enjoy their time at EHPTSA is for children to be engaged in inviting activities. So, the best “discipline” is a well-run class. However, in the event that a child needs assistance with their behavior, we have set these guidelines.

Instructors have a menu of options to try. They may try other similar ideas, as well, as long as they are in the same spirit of treating children with respect and guiding them gently towards their best behavior.

1. Teachers are asked to plan their classes well, so children are busy, even when self-directed.
2. Teachers are asked to have predictable expectations for behavior and recognizable routines, so children know when it is time to listen or time to talk or time to clean up, etcetera.
3. If, after, expectations are explained, a child needs help following them- a child may be:
 - a. redirected to the appropriate activity
 - b. asked gently to stop the inappropriate behavior
 - c. given a logical consequence.

We believe that in most cases, this is all that will be necessary.

4. However, if a child escalates the misbehavior to highly disruptive after repeated attempts by the teacher to correct the misbehavior, the child’s parent will be called to the room to address their child.
5. Our goal is to convey to the child that their teachers and parents are working as a team to support the child’s ability to use self-control. We ask that the parent convey this if they are called to address their child in class. The parent may need to consider stepping outside of the classroom with their child until the child is ready to participate appropriately.
6. If parental intervention is repeatedly necessary, the parent may be asked to attend the class with the child to participate as an engaged assistant until the child is able to attend without parental support.
7. If the child is unable to bring the behavior under control with a parent present, the Board of Directors may withdraw the child from the class. A refund will not be issued.
8. If a child engages in bullying, verbal abuse, physical fighting, brings a weapon to co-op, engages in theft, or willfully destroys property, the child will be subject to disciplinary action. This disciplinary action may include expulsion from the class and/or program.

Unacceptable Corrective Methods

Yelling, humiliating, or physical punishment, by any adult, is unacceptable at Eastside Homeschool PTSA.

Conclusion

As children engage in activities that interest them, volunteers and teachers set up well run classes and use these guidelines when needed, we believe the EHPTSA will be a pleasant place to learn, explore and grow together.