

	DHS Early Head Start Program Policy		
EDUCATION 11			
SUBJECT	Discipline and Guidance		
REFERENCE	Education and Early Childhood Development		
EFFECTIVE	8/1/2016		
Policy Council Approval: 7/26/16	Policy Council Revision: 5/23/23	Governing Body Approval: 9/19/16	Governing Body Revision: 6/15/23
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Policy:

Service Providers must establish discipline and guidance policies and procedures appropriate for infants and toddlers. A copy must be provided to all parents/guardians, staff, volunteers, substitute floaters, teachers, and contractors. Documentation must be maintained showing receipt of the written discipline and guidance policies. Service Providers must ensure a signed copy of the Education 11 Discipline and Guidance policy is maintained in all employees, volunteers, home visitors, and substitutes, floaters, teacher's files.

The policies and procedures must include positive methods of discipline and guidance that build self-esteem and support self-control and self-regulation such as:

- Praise and encouragement of developmentally appropriate behavior instead of focusing only on the unacceptable behavior
- Frequent reminders of behavior expectations using clear and positive statements
- Redirection of behavior using positive statements

Discipline must be constructive, individualized, and consistent for each child, appropriate to the child's level of understanding, and directed toward teaching the child appropriate behavior. Service Provider must prohibit or severely limit the use of suspension due to a child's behavior. Service Provider must not expel or un-enroll a child from Head Start due to a child's behavior, unless approved by the Head Start Administrator.

The policies and procedures must also include guidance on appropriate communication with parents/guardians regarding a child's behavior.

When appropriate for the child's age and development, a brief supervised separation or time away from the group may be necessary and should be limited to no more than one minute per year of the child's age. There must be no harsh, cruel or unusual treatment of any child. The following examples are prohibited:

- Corporal punishment or threats of corporal punishment

- Punishment associated with food, naps, toilet training
- Pinching, shaking, or biting a child
- Hitting a child with hand or an object
- Putting anything in or on a child's mouth
- Humiliating, ridiculing, rejecting, or yelling at a child
- Pointing a finger in a child's face
- Snapping fingers at a child
- Use of isolation to discipline a child
- Binding or tying a child to restrict movement
- Threatening phrases/tone or sarcastic language/tone
- Threatening to call a child's parent/guardian related to behavior
- Subjecting a child to harsh, abusive, or profane language
- Placing a child in a locked or dark room, bathroom, or closet with the door closed
- Requiring a child to remain silent or inactive for inappropriately long periods of time for the child's age including requiring a child to remain in a restrictive device
- Child restraint performed by staff not certified in proper restraint procedures
- Withholding outdoor free play
- Requiring a parent/guardian to pick up a child due to misbehavior

Performance Standard(s):

1302.17; 1302.90 (c); 1302.31 (e) (2-4)

