



Child and Youth Guidance Policy

While caring for and supervising our children and youth, we need to provide a loving and safe environment. Viewing problem behaviors as opportunities rather than roadblocks allows helpful solutions to surface. Depending on our response, children may experience forgiveness and grace, kindness and reconciliation. Part of a child's faith journey is the development of self-discipline. Loving adults help foster that.

Unacceptable behaviors, include but are not limited to the following:

- Physically harmful behavior such as throwing of objects, kicking, hitting, pushing, biting.
- Unsafe behavior such as leaving the area without leaders' permission.
- Emotionally harmful behavior such as name-calling or any language that shows disrespect, puts down, or belittles another person.

Suggested Guidance Policies:

- The main method of guidance recommended is distraction away from the problem area or activity.
- Modify programs and activities as needed to make sure they are age appropriate and match the make-up of your specific group.
- Focus on reinforcing good behavior.
- Help the children articulate their feelings and needs using "I" statements.
- Offer choices when real choices exist.
- Expectations and appropriate consequences should be clear to the children and youth.
- Any form of physical punishment is not appropriate or tolerated.
- Children should never be shamed or isolated alone.
- Taking a break with a leader or other adult present is an acceptable option.

If there are difficult problems or anything that you do not know how to handle, talk to the program director. For severe problems, we will partner with parents to seek a workable solution for all concerned.

Pray for the children you work with. We are partners with God in ministry with children.