

Behavior Management

The following are the sequential steps our staff take when dealing with behavior management:

1. **Verbal Warning:** Talk to the child, explain how they need to modify their behavior, and give them the tools to do so.
2. **Break from activity:** Have the child take a break from the activity/material that is causing them trouble. Give them other options or the opportunity to sit quietly for a few minutes until they are ready to behave appropriately again (this is NOT a time out – the child is in control of when they end their quiet break time). When they are ready, they should check in with you to follow-up.
3. **Loss of privilege:** Take away a privilege that follows as a logical consequence (we do not take away snack or outside time; rather, if the child is not playing responsibly with balls, for example, then they may not have the privilege of using them the rest of the day, etc.).
4. **Parent involvement:** Have the child tell their parent about their challenges that day. Fill out a behavior report, leaving a copy for the parent and child to take home and a copy for us to keep on file. Be specific, address certain behaviors, and give suggestions for improvements.

* Any violent or sexual behavior is taken directly to Step 4, with immediate parent communication and possible pick-up from the program.

If a child is showing no improvement with these steps, a meeting will be set up with the Program Director and family to draw up a Behavior Contract addressing the required behavior changes and timeline. This will be a team effort to turn the behavior around and to give appropriate and helpful structure to the child. After every effort has been made without successful results, enrollment may be terminated with as little as one week's notice. If the child's behavior is dangerous to themselves or others, immediate dismissal will be required.