**S.O.K.O. Child Guidance Policy**

It is S.O.K.O.’s goal to provide a safe environment where children feel good about themselves and have a positive experience. When a child’s behavior is unacceptable or unsafe for himself or others, discipline is a necessary part of guidance. Our staff act as positive role models and are guided by accurate knowledge and understanding of child growth and development.

**CHILD GUIDANCE PREVENTATIVE TECHNIQUES:**

1. Thoughtful planning of the environment and schedule will prevent boredom and anxiety. Age appropriate equipment, smaller sub groups, and comfortable room arrangements will be maintained.
2. Defining and explaining limits will be clearly stated in a precise, specific, and concrete way.
3. We are aware of young children’s needs to model after the adults in their lives. We will strive to be positive examples.
4. Children and parents are encouraged to become active in setting up guidelines and limits for the S.O.K.O. Inc. program.
5. We will encourage positive behavior by recognizing a child’s positive actions.

**WHEN CHILD GUIDANCE IS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP SELF CONTROL:**

1. We will never act aggressively towards a child. We will never use physical force, such as hitting, pinching, biting, or slapping. We will never attempt to lower self-esteem with verbal abuse.
2. Re-direction, guidance, reason, and discussion will be used as the situation warrants. The guidance given will fit the specific moment.
3. We may choose to provide “Time Out” from a play situation or equipment/toys if a child is having difficulties handling the situation. This is will preferably take place in the immediate area or on a chair in the office. The child will have input and will be allowed to return as soon as possible. We want him/her to view their time away from the group as a relief rather than a punishment.
4. We may ask a child to leave an activity or object as a consequence of behavior. This will be related to the unacceptable behavior and occur within a time span understandable to that particular child.
5. In some instances, children may have an upcoming activity or special event withdrawn from their use. This might be a field trip, art activity, or distal supervision.