



DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline is a means of teaching new behavior, providing structure and setting limits. It is a tool designed to direct and give children a sense of security and consistency in their lives. Discipline may include: talking to child; praise for appropriate behaviors; diversion; separation; and withholding privileges. It is important that you clearly understand the agency’s policy relative to discipline so that you can provide the best care possible for your foster child.

1. This agency does not allow corporal punishment. No child may be punched, shaken, pinched, spanked, roughly handled or struck by an object or by foster parents or anyone in the foster home. Children may not be humiliated or frightened as a method to control actions.
2. Only foster parents may discipline foster children; children may not discipline other children. Group discipline is prohibited except in accordance with the facilities written policy and this discipline policy.
3. No child may be punished for lapses in toilet training.
4. Verbal abuse or derogatory remarks about the child, his family, his race, religion or cultural background shall not be used or permitted.
5. No child shall be force fed. Deprivation of meals or snacks shall not be used as punishment, although scheduled meals/snacks may be provided individually.
6. Separation when used as discipline shall be brief and appropriate to the child’s age and circumstances; the young child shall be within hearing of an adult in a safe, lighted, well-ventilated room of at least 50 square feet. No child shall be isolated in a locked room, closet, bathroom or pantry.
7. Children are not to be denied communication (visitation or telephone) privileges with family, clergy, attorney or caseworker as a method of discipline.
8. Foster parents may not give schools permission to spank.
9. The child’s basic rights as listed on the Children’s Rights and Grievance Procedure form shall not be denied as a means of discipline.
10. The following cruel/unusual discipline methods shall be prohibited: any discipline designed or likely to cause physical pain; physical exercising such as running laps, push-ups, carrying heavy rocks; requiring or forcing child to take an uncomfortable position such as squatting, bending, standing with nose to wall, holding hands over head; or sitting in a cross-legged position on floor when used solely as a means of punishment.
11. Denial of essential/basic program services solely for disciplinary purposes is prohibited.
12. Releasing noxious, toxic or unpleasant sprays, mists or aerosol substances in proximity to child’s face is not permitted.
13. Denial of sleep or sending child to bed as punishment is not allowed, but facilities may set individual bed times for children.
14. Use of physical or mechanical restraint is not permitted.

Disregard of the above rules or any disciplinary measure resulting in physical injury or abuse to any child shall be grounds for denial, revocation of certificate. It may result in criminal charges being filed against the foster parents. If you have any questions please discuss them with your child’s caseworker or your foster home supervisor.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE STATEMENTS AND WILL ABIDE BY THEM:

Foster Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Foster Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____