



The Big Barn Preschool
888 S. Roselle Road, Schaumburg, IL, 60193
847/895-3257

Where Children Come to Learn & Play!

Guidance and Discipline

The Big Barn Preschool believes in positive methods of discipline. We set consistent, age-appropriate limits to encourage children to function in their world. Our teachers work to prevent conflict by arranging the classroom so that the children work in small groups and have a choice of activities. Teachers are also trained to skillfully guide children's behavior along appropriate channels. They establish limits and teach children to understand the consequences of actions that are not acceptable.

Any form of emotional abuse, including: shaming, rejecting, terrorizing, profane language, corporal punishment, including: hitting, spanking, swatting, beating, shaking, pinching, and other physical measures are prohibited and not tolerated at our Preschool.

Teachers at our Preschool will use positive guidance techniques such as:

- State the rule
- State simple brief reasons for the rule
- State the consequences
- Help the child find acceptable alternatives for their behavior
- Help the child through the alternate plan
- If the child cannot control themselves, remove the child from the situation. Children will be encouraged to rejoin the activities when they feel calm and ready to be productive learners. The staff will write up a report using the ABC's.

Aggressive and Unsafe Behavior – Policy on Managing

The goal of this policy is avoiding the need to suspend by identifying behavior issues early and connecting children with appropriate resources before suspension becomes necessary. The Big Barn Preschool does not use suspension intermittently or to punish behavior; instead, suspension is a pause in an enrollment to secure the safety of the child and others, while a family seeks additional resources or support. All suspensions are considered fairly, consistent with state and federal civil rights and other laws.

Identifying Issues and Collaborating with Parents

Whenever a child engages in aggressive behavior, staff should alert the director. The director should monitor Occurrence Reports to identify potential aggression issues, problems, or patterns.

When a child engages in aggressive or unsafe behavior, the center should:

- meet with the child's family to collaborate and implement action plans designed to improve the behavior and reduce the safety risks;
- encourage the family toward the professional supports needed for the child's success if we do not achieve positive change through redirection and positive guidance in a reasonable time;
- collaborate with professional supports/resources to implement and to support our efforts and encourage positive change;
- maintain a safe environment while working through an action plan and toward positive change; and
- consider suspension of enrollment, in collaboration with the Director, Board and Teacher, if an unsafe situation is not resolved within a reasonable period of time.

Action Plan and Roles

The director is responsible for:

- creating, implementing, and monitoring an action plan for any child who engages in unsafe or aggressive behavior four (4) or more times within a three (3) week period;
- notifying the board when a child requiring help is identified and an action plan is needed;
- meeting with the family when the action plan is implemented, and then periodically as progress is made or as additional incidents occur;
- discussing available outside resources either District 54 or The Kenneth Young Center and
- discussing possibility of suspension if improvement does not occur or resources are not in place within a reasonable amount of time

The Board is responsible for:

- making direct observations of the child and classroom to provide insight and suggestions to improve the behavior or dynamic. If a personal visit is not logistically possible, the Board's review can be facilitated using remote resources/technology or someone else designated by the Board can conduct the review.
- reviewing the written action plan to offer insight and recommendations before the action plan is provided to parents.
- helping to identify appropriate resources, both internal and external, to support the child and the center and encourage positive change; and
- participating in parent meetings, as needed, to support the director's recommendations, particularly when it is clear that support services are needed or suspension is likely.

Suspension

A decision to suspend requires the participation, review and approval of the legal department and DVP. If applicable, the client liaison should be notified and permitted to participate. Immediate suspension can occur with the board approval in light of the severity of the safety risk. Before suspending, the team should evaluate:

- 1) whether diligent efforts to solve the behavior within our abilities were made;
- 2) if outside resources were recommended/accessed and participated in our efforts to solve;
- 3) other strategies to consider; and
- 4) the severity of the safety risks and likelihood of harm or injury if the enrollment continues. Suspension is not measured by a period of time (i.e., days or weeks), which could be viewed as punitive. Suspension is a pause in the enrollment until the child can participate safely with the right supports in place. If/when additional services are secured or the child's behavior improves outside the center, we will collaborate with parents and the child's resources to determine if/how the child can be returned to the program safely

Child's Name _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____