

Meadow Montessori School

Hurtful Behavior Policy

Dear Parents,

Discipline is a topic in every school and household in America today, and Meadow Montessori School is no different. We strive to create the safest place for your child both, physically and psychologically. In order to do this, we require each student and his/her parents to read, discuss and agree to abide by our Hurtful Behavior Policy.

The cornerstone of any discipline policy is set in the definition of the word. At Meadow Montessori discipline means the development of self-control and a sense of responsibility. Each person at Meadow Montessori School is a member of our community, and we hope to engender the spirit of cooperation in each person. Likewise, we do not want anyone to engage in behavior that would be hurtful to a member of our community. In order to ensure the safety of everyone, we must have some simple ground rules by which we all live.

The first and most important of these rules involves the principle of safety. Everyone must feel safe—physically and psychologically.

We cannot and will not tolerate any physical violence at school. Physical violence is **never** a solution to any problem. If a child strikes another child, he/she will be removed from the group. If we determine that a child is not safe to him/herself or others, he/she will be sent home immediately.

Verbal abuse, although less frightening than physical violence, also impacts on the safety of others. Continued name calling, taunting or teasing cannot be tolerated within our community. A child will be removed from the group and then the school if this behavior persists.

As members of a community, we must respect one another's property and the property of the school. If property is damaged it must be replaced. We encourage parents to let their child be responsible for any expense incurred for repairs or replacement of damaged property.

To solve problems in a consistent and predictable manner, MMS has adopted a Conflict Resolution Model. We will go through the following steps in solving conflicts:

- State the problem clearly
- Identify the one who owns the problem
- Brainstorm to identify possible solutions
- Evaluate the practicality of each solution
- Identify the consequences of each solution
- Select the best solution
- Plan how and when to implement it
- Implement
- Evaluate
- Then, if this solution did not work, select the next best solution

This process requires a written document. In the event a child has accumulated three (3) violations of our Hurtful Behavior Policy, the parents will be contacted and a conference will be scheduled. We know that, in order to create a successful school environment, teachers and parents must work together. Please feel free to communicate with your child's teachers as soon as you have a concern. In turn, teachers will stay in close contact with you.

Catharine Calder
Head of School

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I have read the above policy and agree to do my part to make Meadow Montessori School a safe environment. As a member of this community I agree to follow the Meadow Montessori School Conflict Resolution Model. I also understand that if I behave in an unsafe or hurtful manner, I may be asked to leave the school on a temporary or permanent basis.

Student's Signature

Date

Parent's Signature

Date