

FAMILY RESOURCE AGENCY CHILD BEHAVIOR POLICY

Children enrolled in the Head Start program are expected to behave in a manner which permits developmental growth and positive interaction between other children and adults. This involves the ability to function in an environment which requires following classroom rules and teaching staff directions, appropriate social interaction and a safe environment for all children and adults. Approved behavior modification techniques are employed to promote the child's understanding and awareness of appropriate behavior.

Children whose behavior is outside of these expectations, especially when it is violent or threatening toward other children or adults, will be handled as outlined below. Violent or threatening behavior includes, but is not limited to the following: repetitive hitting, biting, spitting, scratching, pinching, throwing things, running away from staff, cussing, making threatening statements.

When this behavior occurs repetitively, staff will use established classroom management techniques to stop and prevent the recurrence of this behavior. If routine techniques do not prevent the behavior from occurring, the Center Manager will follow the procedure outlined below:

1st Occurrence: A parent conference will be scheduled and another copy of the Child Behavior Policy will be given to and reviewed with the parent(s). The parent will be given a Parent/Guardian Observation of Child form to fill out that gives the parent input on any behaviors that they have observed in the home. The parent will also be given a Permission for Consultant Services form to sign which allows us to contact our Classroom Consultant to complete an observation on the child and make suggestions to the staff on alternative techniques and/or recommendations regarding referral for professional evaluation or intervention. The Consultant's recommendations will be implemented in the classroom.

2nd Occurrence: If the behavior continues, the parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up the child* and a 2nd notice will be given stating our policy on uncontrollable behavior. The Classroom Consultant will be called for further observation/recommendations. The parent will be required to meet with the Head Start staff and/or consultant to discuss any recommendations.

3rd Occurrence: The parent will be contacted to pick up the child* and will receive another notice stating our policy. Another conference will be scheduled between the Head Start staff, the parent and the consultant to discuss recommendations and possible referrals. A contract may be signed by the parent at this time agreeing to follow the consultant recommendations. The staff will start paperwork referring the child to the local school system if the child has not already been referred.

4th Occurrence: If the behavior occurs again, the parent will be contacted to pick up the child* and a 4th occurrence notice will be given. At this time, the consultant and/or Mental Health professional will be contacted for further recommendations and possible re-observation.

5th Occurrence: If the behavior continues, a 5th occurrence notice will be sent out and a conference will be scheduled to decide if Head Start is the appropriate placement for the child.

*The child will only be sent home if his/her behavior is dangerous to him/herself or other children or adults, including staff. If the parent does not come to pick up the child immediately when contacted, the child will **NOT** be allowed to attend/participate until the parent comes in for a conference at which time he/she will be informed that failure to adhere to the policy as outlined will result in the child being withdrawn from the program.

Additionally, any child who has received a notice regarding violent behavior may be prohibited from attending field trips unless accompanied by an adult.

The staff will continue to work with the child, the family and the Classroom Consultant throughout this process to attempt alternative techniques. The final option (withdrawal from the program) will be implemented only in the event that the child's behavior cannot be controlled by any techniques developed and he/she continues to be a threat to him/herself and other children or adults, including staff. If professional evaluation or intervention is recommended by the Consultant, the parent must pursue the recommended course of action in order for the child to continue in the program.