



## STEMS DISCIPLINE POLICY

At Salah Tawfik, we view discipline not as a means of punishing a child who has acted inappropriately but rather as a means of teaching the child. Positive discipline teaches children where the limits are set, how to maintain control over their bodies and how to problem solve in the event of conflict.

Harsh punishment is never administered at Salah Tawfik. Instead, corrective measures that help to develop a positive self-image and self-discipline are worked out between the child and the teacher. Children are not called names and there is no verbal harassment of the child.

For aggressive behavior, our method of discipline will first be age appropriate discussion and then, if necessary, time out for younger children (up to 3 ½ years old) and thinking time out for older children. When a child does misbehave, the following steps are taken to correct the behavior:

- Redirection. If a child is engaged in undesirable behavior, we will present the child with an alternative and/or acceptable behavior or activity.
- Verbal Intervention: The teacher will first discuss why the behavior is inappropriate and what alternate behavior is acceptable and expected of the child.
- Logical Consequences: The consequences of continued misbehavior will be explained.
- Time Out: Time out for younger children will be no more than 3 minutes for three year olds.
- Thinking Time Out: Thinking time out for children aged four and older will be at the child's discretion. The child may return to the activity when (s)he is able to behave in a socially acceptable manner.

In accordance with Florida state regulations:

- Children shall not be subjected to discipline which is severe, humiliating or frightening.
- Discipline shall not be associated with food, rest or toileting.
- Spanking or any other form of physical punishment is prohibited.

**Parent Conference:** A parent conference will be called when a child's behavior is consistently disruptive. To respect your privacy and your child's, teachers will be able to discuss problems and concerns only during a private conference. It is inappropriate for any school staff to discuss your child in the presence of other children or parents.

**Referral:** If the child continues to be disruptive in class, parents will be given a referral to contact FDLRS or a licensed psychologist for assessment.

**Removal:** If all previous steps have been exhausted and the child continues to be disruptive to the learning environment, then arrangements will be made for the child to be removed from the program.