



THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE

DISCIPLINE POLICY

STUDENT CONDUCT

The Children's House aims:

- To balance freedom and responsibilities of the individual with the need for cooperation, order and goodwill within the group;
- To provide an environment where the child will experience encouragement, affirmation and community;
- To ensure the physical and psychological safety of every student;
- To enable each student to develop a high standard of moral integrity gained through growth in self-discipline;
- To aid the child in their process of developing into responsible adults;
- To maintain a high standard for student behavior that reflects positively on self, family, school and community;
- To nurture each student with respect and fairness.

The Children's House expects each student:

- To treat others with dignity and respect;
- To treat him/herself with the same respect;
- To respect both the work and property of others, and to bring only necessary materials to school;
- To have consistent attendance and punctual arrival.

Academic Integrity:

We are a community of scholars. We strive to do our individual best work and to encourage others to achieve their best as well. We value and expect honesty and integrity from all students, staff, and faculty. All students work must be his or her own; plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Bullying:

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines bullying as any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated. Bullying may inflict harm or distress on the targeted youth including physical, psychological, social or educational harm. Children who bully use their power – such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information or popularity – to control or harm others. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. By definition, bullying requires repetition of a behavior or act. A young person can be a perpetrator, a victim or both (also known as “bully/victim). Bullying can occur in person and through technology. Electronic aggression or cyber-bullying is bullying that happens through email, chat rooms, instant message, a website, text message or social media.

Although unpleasant, the following acts are not considered bullying: not liking someone; begin excluded; accidently bumping into someone; making other children play things in a certain way; arguments; a single act of telling a joke about someone; expression of unpleasant thought or feelings about another person; isolated acts of aggression, meanness, intimidation or harassment.

Misbehavior and the School's Response:

In the event that a student fails to respect the expectations above, the following notes describe the usual approach and procedures for working with the student. The school reserves the right to modify these procedures as it sees fit:

- In the event of **minor misbehavior**, the student and teacher discuss and work cooperatively to resolve the problem. At times, an individual's minor misbehavior may be considered by the classroom community because of its impact on the life of the class.
- **Chronic misbehavior** is reported and discussed with parents and the Head of School where strategies to aid the child in correcting the behavior are agreed upon.
- **Major misbehavior**, especially that involving injurious behavior, is further discussed with the Head of School. The head, parents, teacher and, where appropriate, the student, meet to resolve the issue

The school considers the following to be major misbehavior:

- Interference with the rights of others, including physical abuse (such as punching, biting, kicking, or hitting), verbal hostility (such as teasing, taunts, threats or intimidation), and bullying or emotional aggression (whether by physical aggression, social alienation, or verbal aggression and intimidation);
- Damage to, abuse of, or stealing any school or personal property;
- Use of obscene, profane, suggestive, or intimidating written or verbal language;
- Inappropriate intimate contact
- Inappropriate or unauthorized use of technology
- Possession, use, or sale of alcohol, tobacco substances, or inhalants and drugs in the current Federal Controlled Substances Act
- Possession, use, or sale of weapons or explosives
- Repeated disruptive or uncooperative behavior

The school expects full parental cooperation in all aspects of the student's life at The Children's House. All rules apply before, during and after school, and on all school outings. The school is committed to working together with the student and the family on issues of conduct. At the same time, The Children's House reserves the right to dismiss any student at any time if, in its sole judgment, the student's continued presence at the school is detrimental to themselves, to others or to the community as a whole.

In the event of major or chronic misbehavior, a student may be excluded from school, suspended, or expelled.

The school does not engage in corporal punishment of any kind. *ALL of the following means of punishment and discipline are prohibited: (a) hitting, spanking, shaking, biting or pinching. (b) Restricting a child's movement by binding or tying him or her. (c) Inflicting mental or emotional punishment, such as humiliating, shaming, or threatening a child. (d) Depriving a child of meals, snacks, rest, or necessary toilet use. (e) Excluding a child from outdoor play or other gross motor activities. (f) Excluding a child from daily learning experiences. (g) Confining a child in an enclosed area, such as a closet, locked room, box, or similar cubicle.*

State of Michigan Child Care Licensing: rule 8140 (2)