

Dear Parents,

During the first few weeks of school, the children and I have been and will continue to discuss the need for classroom rules. We have come up with a few basic rules and have consequences for breaking the rules and rewards for good behavior. We have a number one rule: "Never hurt anyone or anything on the inside or the outside." We focus on the fact that everyone has the right to be happy. When you make someone unhappy, you are held responsible for your actions.

Too many rules just weigh a child down. We try to speak first generally, which will cover the specific rules.

1. Be responsible- do attendance and lunch chart, clean up toys or materials, put school box away, complete all tasks, etc.
2. Solve problems independently and in a positive manner- avoid violence, avoid unkind words, no tattling unless someone is getting hurt, etc.
3. Show consideration for the feelings of others- listen when someone else is talking, takes turns, share, use good manners, speak kindly, etc.
4. Demonstrate self-control- walk indoors, use an "indoor voice" in the classroom, keep hands and feet to themselves, etc.
5. Show respect for teachers and all adults- listen and follow directions, tell the truth, accept consequences for actions, speak with a respectful voice, etc.

Through many discussions at school, the children know that what is expected of them is cooperative behavior. They also know that I am always there to assist them, but I will not do a task they are capable of for them. In addition, they are aware that I encourage them to help each other, but not to do things completely for each other.

We will start using a new behavior system in our classroom. We have been practicing for a few days. Each day every student starts off with a super behavior slip in his/her individual pocket in our behavior chart. If a child breaks a rule, the student must give me either their behavior slip or the next colored card in their pocket. Each color card indicates a consequence:

Super Behavior Slip	good behavior	
Yellow Card	the child has broken one rule	warning
Blue Card	the child has broken two rules	"time out"
No Card	the child has broken three rules	"time out" & parents called after school

In case of a severe action by a student, any one of these steps may be skipped. If after several correspondences with parents the child is still disruptive, an alternate plan may be devised and used. This may involve the school principal and include home follow-up.

If your child loses their super behavior slip they will be given a slip stating that "Today was difficult, tomorrow will be better." This is from the book Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes. We will read this book when we begin using this discipline procedure. Hopefully this will help the children know that we all make mistakes and we still care about them. You may wish to read this book at home as well.

At the end of the day, all children who still have a good behavior slip in their pocket take it home. In this way, you can monitor and recognize good, as well as not-so-good behavior. **It would be very helpful if you could look for and discuss the perfect slips every day with your child, making them accountable for their behavior.** If you choose to do so, additional rewards could also be made at home for earning a certain number of behavior slips. The rewards do not have to be material purchases. For example, books or a toy for 10 slips, staying up a hour later on Friday for 10 slips, an extra half hour of Nintendo for 5 slips, etc.

If you have any questions concerning your child's behavior or our policy, please feel free to contact me at 232-2748. Good communication between home and school helps eliminate many potential problems.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. You are the most important teacher that your child has!

Sincerely,

