

## *Discipline Policy*

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Plato shall use disciplinary measures designed and carried out in such a way as to help individual children develop self-control and assume responsibility for their own acts.

- 1) Plato shall establish simple, understandable rules so that expectations and limitations are clear to the child.
- 2) Discipline shall not be out of proportion to the particular inappropriate behavior.
- 3) Discipline shall be related to the child's act and be handled immediately by the teacher involved so the child is aware of the relationship between acts and consequences.
- 4) Removal from the group to help a child gain control shall not exceed one minute per year of age. Removal from the group shall not be used for children less than 24 months of age.

No child shall be subjected to extreme punishment.

- 1) No child shall be subjected to physical punishment, nor can shame, frightening, or humiliating methods be used.
- 2) There shall be no verbal abuse, threats, or derogatory remarks about the child or the child's family.
- 3) Depriving a child of meals or any part of meals shall never be used as punishment.
- 4) No child shall be punished for toilet accidents.

**All teachers will take at least one course related to issues of behavior analysis and management within the first 3-6 months of being employed at Plato.**

The above is Plato's formal discipline policy. The basic policy is that the rules and expectations are designed given the developmental stage of the children.

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The children are in an emotionally safe environment; safe in that they know the rule is those children's bodies, feelings and work should not be hurt. They know that everyone, teachers and children, should treat everyone else with respect. They know that if this does not happen, they have a responsibility to find a way to take care of the problem with the help of a teacher. Teachers are continually role-modeling behavior for children and helping children negotiate with one another. The children will learn that there are more socially acceptable ways of handling emotions than others. They are aided in their efforts to develop more self-control and are empowered to participate in the development of strategies to do so. Children's ideas are frequently sought in handling individual issues. They are keen observers and can be quite insightful in formulating strategies or creating rules to handle specific issues. We welcome questions from parents regarding discipline at Plato and we know the subject is important to parents as you deal with similar issues at home. Behavior management is truly a joint effort between teacher, child and parent.