

## **DISCIPLINE**

The philosophy of The Good Shepherd School is to offer a program that fosters the development of the whole child – socially, intellectually, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. We strive to ensure a child's success in the school setting by presenting appropriate learning opportunities and social experiences. In keeping with this philosophy, our discipline policies guide children towards kind and empathetic behaviors through the teaching of social skills.

Child-to-staff classroom ratios are kept low in accordance with guidelines established by the Department of Human Resources. These ratios allow diligent supervision and for the children's needs to be met quickly and properly. Teachers maintain inviting and engaging classrooms that promote positive interactions and activities. Children have ample space and opportunity to engage in a variety of learning experiences. A variety of age-appropriate toys and materials are available for daily use and exploration and are rotated on a regular basis to correspond with units of study, student interest, and developmental growth.

Teachers lead by example, modeling positive social behaviors such as sharing, problem solving, and expression of feelings for the children to emulate. Conflicts are handled and addressed as necessary with the children involved being gently moved to action through positive verbal encouragement. Aggressive behaviors are redirected through teacher-guided private reflection and discussion with the child.

The Good Shepherd School does not condone the use of physical roughness, verbal harshness, comparison, sarcasm, shaming, or isolation as discipline strategies. The school and teachers welcome communication with families to establish a relationship as partners in identifying and implementing the most effective strategy for any particular situation or circumstance that a child may be experiencing.