

# CLUB KID Behavior Policy

One of the goals of our program is for each child to develop a sense of respect for themselves and others. We strive to create an environment that encourages children to make positive choices, to enter and exit peer groups with increasing skill and satisfaction and to learn to live in a respectful and cooperative manner. So we do have certain expectations as it pertains to behavior. These behaviors include:

- All participants will keep their hands, feet and all body parts to themselves.
- All participants will follow behavioral directions the first time they are given.
- All participants will not verbally or physically mistreat anyone. This includes peers, counselors and other support staff.

We do not think that discipline should be a punishment. Inner discipline is the goal and is the result of an evolving process occurring within the child. Through appropriate staff/child interaction, anticipatory guidance, well established guidelines for appropriate behavior and active listening to children's responses, staff will get to know each child and determine what additional limits and adjustments might work best for each individual. We hope to set our expectations for proper behavior, so it is anticipated that each child will exhibit self-control, and strive to follow our basic expectations, as it regards behavior. We believe children exhibits self-control and reasoning when staff treats them with dignity and use discipline techniques such as:

- Guiding children by setting clear and consistent limits and policies
- Visualizing mistakes as learning opportunities
- Encouraging them to verbalize and listen to children when they voice their frustration and feelings
- Guiding children to resolve conflict and model skills to help them problem solve
- Reminding and reinforcing the rules and their rationale
- Redirection

When a problem arises, steps toward reaching the above goals will include:

1. Staff will work with the child by speaking to the child at the time of the incident. Staff will support behavior changes through explaining and redirecting.
2. If a pattern of negative behavior persists, staff will talk with the parent/guardian in order to obtain assistance and suggestions for developing effective approaches with the child.
3. If inappropriate behavior continues, staff, along with the Program Director, will contact the parent/guardian either by phone or in writing to notify them of the observed behavior(s) and request a meeting with the parent/guardian and the child will be given a day off from the program.
4. After 3 incidents that result in a child being given time off and if all reasonable approaches are exhausted and the pattern of negative or threatening behaviors continue, and/or the child's actions are a threat to the well-being and safety of other children, staff or oneself, parents will be called and the child will be permanently removed from the program.
5. Severe inappropriate or threatening behavior that is directly related to the safety and well-being of the other children and/ or staff in the program may cause a child's immediate withdrawal from our program.

In signing this document, as parent/guardian, I knowledge that I have been made aware of the YMCA of Middletown Club Kid Behavior Policy and will abide to its implementation, as it regards my child.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE