

Julia Street Montessori School

Code of Conduct

Julia Street Montessori School believes that all children desire to be productive, and in control of themselves. We also believe discipline should include acknowledging the child's contributions, respecting his achievements, and praising his progress. JSMS's discipline policy is designed to help our students develop self-discipline and self-respect.

At the beginning of the school year, children are made aware of appropriate and considerate behavior. Through gentle reminders and modeling, the children become sensitive to the needs of others, and develop a respect for their learning environment. When a reminder is not enough, the teacher will intervene respectfully to stop the behavior.

When used consistently this positive approach to discipline is effective with most children. If a child does not respond, parent(s) or guardian(s) will be called for a conference. Through close cooperation between home and school, effective solutions can usually be found.

If a child becomes too disruptive to remain in the classroom, her parent(s) will be notified and expected to come and get the child as soon as possible.

While a Montessori environment is normally successful with many students, nothing is right for every child. One challenge we face is to be objective, compassionate, yet realistic considering the needs of each child as a unique individual. When we fail, despite our best efforts to work with the child to help him/her meet appropriate behavioral expectations, we sadly must counsel the family to seek out another school setting in which the child can be successful.

Policy on Biting: We believe that a child who bites *usually* does so without malice. It is sometimes an expression of anger or frustration. If a child bites he/she will be removed from the group, then soothed and comforted then shown ways to express his/her feelings safely. Because biting is an unacceptable behavior, parents will be notified immediately, and a plan of remediation will be enacted. A meeting with the director and parents will occur if further biting occurs.

As a Parent of a child enrolled at JSMS, I agree:

1. To support the staff in helping my child to develop appropriate classroom behavior and self-discipline.
2. If my child does not respond to the school's discipline policy after the best efforts of the parent's and staff, he/she must be withdrawn from the school.
3. Grounds for immediate action include dangerous behavior, deliberate destruction of the learning environment, and severe disruption of the class.
4. To support the policies, goals and overall wellbeing of JSMS through positive communications with staff and other parents.
5. To help maintain an atmosphere of peace by bringing matters of concern to the attention of the staff through appropriate means of communication, and by knowing that the Director will be the final arbiter of matters.