

## Guidance Policy

The program at Sutherland Preschool is designed to help children to learn attitudes and work habits that will set the stage for a successful school experience.

Potential situations requiring extra guidance are minimized by clear communication and the establishment of classroom routines. The children are treated with respect.

The group nature of many activities such as “tidy up time” and “circle time” tends to foster cooperation. The children participate willingly because everyone else is involved in the activity.

If difficulties arise between children we encourage them to communicate with one another. Eg. “I was playing with that”, “Don’t do that, I don’t like it” etc. Usually this is all that is needed to straighten out difficulties between individual children. If a child is not successful in sorting out a problem, the teachers will come alongside to help facilitate a solution.

Occasionally there are situations that require more direct intervention by a teacher, and they are handled in the following manner.

The teacher speaks to the child(ren) at eye level, if possible, and explains in a calm manner what is inappropriate about the particular behaviour e.g. “If you throw sand, it might get in someone’s eyes”. Often this is all that is required, but occasionally the behaviour is repeated. In this case the child will be informed of some form of consequence that will occur. Eg. “If you throw the sand again you will have to leave the sandbox.” If the child needs to leave a particular activity they will be re-directed to another area of play.

Once in a while, a child may have trouble managing their behaviour, even though he/she has been spoken to or redirected to more appropriate behaviour. In this situation the consequence might be a brief “time out”. This is only for a short period of time, not more than five minutes. The child is never isolated and never unsupervised.

On rare occasions, when a child is in danger of hurting him/herself or others, some form of holding might be required. For example, this situation may occur if a child becomes upset and wants to “run home”. If this type of physical intervention is required, the child will be held firmly, but gently, and the teacher will speak in a manner to calm the child. The parent will be informed if an incident of this nature takes place.

Parents are always welcome to observe, either in the classroom or through the available one way mirror. We welcome parent participation in our preschool and are happy to answer any questions about our program and policies.