

University Hill Preschool

GUIDELINES AND POLICY FOR INTERACTING WITH STUDENTS

(As Adapted Partially From the Vancouver School Board Guidelines)

Statement of Purpose:

University Hill Preschool is committed to creating a safe and respectful learning and play environment for our students. The purpose of these guidelines is to clarify and affirm the expectations of all adults in interacting with children at University Hill Preschool. When you see the word "adult" it refers to any person working, any parent of a current student, volunteers, or anyone otherwise interacting with students on school grounds or during field trips.

This document does not address every possible situation or provide an exhaustive review of acceptable or unacceptable conduct. It simply provides a framework within which the Board of Directors expects adults to be exercising common sense and good judgment when interacting with students.

The Adult's Position of Trust and Authority:

Our students have the right to a safe, and caring preschool environment, free from discrimination and harm. Children also have the right to a learning environment where clear expectations of acceptable adult behaviour are held and met.

All adults are in a position of trust and authority in relationship to students and therefore their interactions with students must focus on meeting the needs of the children.

The onus is on the adult to remove him/herself from any physical or verbal contact with students that could lead to the initiation or perception of any form of abuse or harassment.

Adults must respect each student's right to personal boundaries in all interactions. It is the responsibility of the adult to be sensitive to, and respectful of, personal boundaries of all students whether or not the student communicates discomfort with the interaction.

When interacting with a student, an adult is advised to consider the appropriateness of her/his conduct in relation to such factors as the student's age, developmental level, cultural and educational background.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Behaviour:

Adults are expected to behave in a manner which models appropriate behaviours to students. The following are not exhaustive but illustrative:

Examples of Acceptable Behaviour:

- *Respectful language, tone and attitude towards students*
- *Respect for students' personal and physical boundaries*
- *Age appropriate forms of touching such as side by side hug or pats on the shoulder or back as positive reinforcement*
- *Supporting diversity within the school population*

Examples of Unacceptable Behaviour:

- *Humiliation of student (eg. Demeaning comments, intimidation)*
- *Inappropriate touching of student*
- *Physical or corporal discipline of student (eg. Hitting, shoving)*
- *Discrimination or harassment prohibited under the BC Human Rights Code, including that based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, family status, socio-economic status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation.*
- *Disrespectful language towards students*
- *Inappropriately disclosing confidential student-related information (beyond then "need to know" basis)*
- *Asking students to keep secrets*

Concerns:

Where there is concern about adult behaviour or conduct that is inconsistent with this Policy, this should be reported to a Board Member. Such reports shall be treated in a confidential manner with information restricted to a "need to know" basis.