



DISCIPLINE POLICY

Good discipline is based on respect, honesty, trust, caring and love. Discipline is what we do for and say to children to help them develop and internalize self-control, self-respect, self-esteem, self-awareness, and self-determination. The result of a "good discipline approach" is a child who learns to conduct him/her self in a socially acceptable way.

When your child experiences difficulty in the camp setting, the staff will work with your child and **encourage the use of words and listening to the words of others**. Therefore, our first course of action is always **NEGOTIATION**.

The Camp Shalom staff works at positively reinforcing acceptable behavior. If possible and appropriate to the situation, our counselors will **redirect inappropriate behavior and/or activity**. Therefore, our second course of action will be **REDIRECTION**.

When negotiation and redirection have not been successful, we will remove the child from the situation for a short period of time to take a "**TIME AWAY**". This is not "time-out." "Time away" has specific goals:

- It gives everyone a chance to regain control in a safe place so that when the child reenters the group he/she is capable of success;
- Teaches children to recognize when their emotions are building to a dangerous level and to recognize when they are ready to function again;
- And, allows the rest of the group to continue its activities.

Children are always encouraged to discuss their actions and are given the necessary guidance to resolve the issue.

If 2 or more children are involved in an incident, the staff will try through conversation to create a **win/win solution for the conflict**. In this matter, we are encouraging language development, problem solving skills, and means for future negotiations.

In extreme cases, a child may be asked to leave the program if he/she becomes a threat to the other children, to the counselor or to him/herself. In addition, if a child's behavior requires a one on one relationship with the counselor, he/she could be dismissed from the program. However, in some cases a child may be allowed to continue in camp if appropriate professional help (i.e. a "shadow") is received.

We encourage parents to discuss with the Director any questions or problems that are not clearly understood. **Communication and consistency** between home and camp are essential to managing children's behavior, and moreover, they are essential to the healthy development of your child.

I have read the above discipline policy _____
Parent/Guardian Signature Date