

# Expulsion Policy

The Learning Center child care programs are centered on the children for whom we care. We seek to provide programs designed to support children's growth and to challenge them to learn, each as an individual with a unique learning style and way of responding to the world. Given the diversity of the families and communities that we serve, it is incumbent upon us to recognize and appreciate the characteristics and behaviors that each child and family brings to our program.

The Learning Center seeks a solid partnership with our families as a basis for their children's success within our program. Because The Learning Centers' child-centered/family approach seeks to accommodate a wide range of individual differences, it is only on rare occasions that a child's/family's behavior may warrant the need to be find a more suitable setting for either a short term or permanent basis. We will do everything possible to work with you avoid a child's expulsion from the center. The following are some reasons why we would have to expel a child or family from the center.

Some examples of such instances include:

## Child's Actions:

- Child unable to adjust to the program after a reasonable amount of time
- Ongoing physical or verbal abuse to staff or other children
- Ongoing uncontrollable tantrums/angry outbursts
- Excessive biting
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## Parental Actions:

- A parent/guardian fails to abide by Center policies or requirements imposed by the appropriate licensing agency.
- Non-payment of tuition.
- A parent/guardian demands special services that are not provided to other children and cannot reasonably be delivered by the program. This includes requests that depart from the philosophy of The Learning Centers' program

## Immediate Causes for Expulsion:

- A parent/guardian is physically or verbally abusive or intimidating to Center staff, children, or anyone else at the Center.
- Potentially dangerous behavior by a parent or child.

## Working Towards a Positive Solution

The decision to expel a child from a The Learning Center is a difficult one for both the Center and the family. In all cases, The Learning Centers' goal is to act quickly, thoughtfully and thoroughly to communicate, address and resolve concerns relating to the children in our care. Center personnel will attempt to work with a family to take constructive steps to finding a solution that resolves the problem(s), before an expulsion occurs.

When a child's teacher or an administrator has concerns about a child's behavior or other circumstances, he or she will document such concerns as soon as they arise. The Center will inform and involve the child's parent/guardian by incident/accident reports, phone calls, and meetings, as necessary, to establish a collaborative environment.

If the child's behavior is problematic, a review of that behavior using the Center's developmental profile and other developmental tools will aid in understanding the behavior in its appropriate context. This review includes input from teachers and administrators, so that checks and balances are used to analyze the problem.

As the Center develops strategies to address a child's particular problem, a variety of options should be considered, including:

- changes to the physical environment
- the daily structure of activities
- consistency
- transition times
- redirection
- Parent observation at the facility
- Shorten daily schedule until situation improves

Whenever possible and appropriate, efforts will be made to help a family understand how they can support the plan at home or encourage a resolution by adjusting their interactions or expectations for a child. Literature and other support resources regarding methods of improving behavior will be provided to the family, if available.

Lines of communication with parents will be established, to review the problematic behaviors, the strategies implemented to resolve them (and their relative success) and the possibility of expulsion if the behaviors are not resolved. It is the Center’s ultimate goal to provide the parents sufficient time to take the necessary corrective action to allow the child to remain at the Center and to provide them with sufficient notice of the potential for expulsion, so they can secure alternative care.

When appropriate, we may suggest an evaluation by a professional consultant to come in and observe the child in the classroom environment. In some cases, it may be appropriate for the child to be assessed by the local school district child study team. If parent does not want involvement of a professional consultant The Learning Center may choose to expel at that time.

Ultimately, Center personnel will attempt a number of approaches before making the final decision to suspend or expel a child from the program.

## Expulsion Process

If the behavior has not resolved after all remedial actions have been exhausted it will be determined that The Learning Center can not meet needs of the child then expulsion will occur.

The Center will not expel a child based solely on any of the following:

- making a complaint to the Office of Licensing regarding a center’s alleged violations of the licensing requirements
- reporting abuse or neglect occurring at the center
- questioning the center regarding policies and procedures

If the center elects to expel a child, the Center will maintain on file a record of the circumstances, parental notification, and corrective action taken

## The Appeal Process

A parent/guardian may appeal the Center’s decision to remove a child from the Center, even when the removal is immediate. The parent/guardian should submit the appeal in writing The Learning Center. The parent/guardian should describe the basis for his/her disagreement with the decision and to provide any supporting documents in this written appeal so his/her position can be fully considered.

Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_