



Respect and Discipline Policy- Explanation for Parents
Pre-K through 5th Grade

At Saint Paul's United Methodist Church we strive to provide children with a positive and nurturing environment in which to learn about God, the Bible and salvation. Here, your child will be encouraged and guided to express his/her feelings through words as well as make appropriate behavioral choices. While we are tolerant and accepting, we must maintain order and the safety of all children in the program. These policies exist to ensure the most beneficial environment to the most children.

Respect Policy

- Children should keep their hands and feet to themselves. Touching others is disruptive and can be threatening to some children. Respecting others' space is important.
- Children and adults should address adults and other children in a respectful manner – no harsh words, tones, or name calling will be allowed. Courtesy and politeness are always encouraged.
- We are all visitors in God's house. The church property should be treated with respect: no kicking of walls or doors, no writing on church property, and no misuse of supplies.
- We are a community and should help one another. It is everyone's job to help pick-up, clean-up, and put away materials.
- Good listening skills will be emphasized. Children should not interrupt but rather listen when adults are speaking and raise their hand before speaking.
- As the body of Christ, we are called to be kind and help one another. Children will be encouraged to share with others in their group. Also, lending a hand to someone in need is a good way to be the face of Jesus to others.

Discipline Policy

If a child misbehaves, the teachers, other adult volunteers, and staff will follow these guidelines:

- Two verbal warnings will be given. For very young children, redirection to another activity will be used.

- If the child misbehaves a third time, the child will have a short “time-out” (a chair in the same room but away from the activity) to think about his/her behavior and will then be encouraged to rejoin the group. Every opportunity will be used to praise desirable behavior. For young children, “time-outs” will never exceed the age of the child, i.e. a three year old will have a three minute “time-out” to think about his/her behavior and then will be encouraged to rejoin the group. If a child is unable to regain control, they may be given a “time-out” with a screened adult outside of the room to help enable the child to regain control. Parents will be informed of the “time-out” when they pick up their child.
- In cases of recurring or severe misbehavior in which the child’s safety is in danger and/or the rights of others are not respected, the parents will be contacted and the child may be placed on a two week suspension (cannot return to that particular programming for a 14 day period). After that suspension, a two week probationary period will be implemented. If the situation does not improve, the child may be asked to leave the program for at least 2 months.
- If your child is at risk of being suspended from the Saint Paul’s Children’s Program, you will be given a written report of his/her behavior. You and your child will also be referred by a clergy member to family counselors in the community, as a means of support and pastoral care. It is our goal that each child will be successful in our Children’s Programming. However, we must ensure that the programming is pleasant and a safe learning experience for *all children*. Therefore, continuously disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.