

The Acting Space

Positive Reinforcement Policy

The Acting Space uses **Positive Reinforcement** rather than punishment. Positive Reinforcement is a process of teaching children how to behave appropriately. Positive Reinforcement respects the rights of the individual child, the group and the Teacher.

Positive Reinforcement by Planning Ahead:

- Anticipate and eliminate potential problems
- Have a few consistent, clear rules that are explained to children and involve the children in creating the group rules
- Plan for ample variety of engaging activities
- We include group decision-making and reinforce every child's contribution
- Make it possible for each child to feel that s/he has had a positive impact on the group
- Provide the structure and support for children to resolve their differences
- Share ownership and responsibility with the children. Talk about our Play, their roles, their importance

Positive reinforcement by Showing Encouragement:

- "Catch" the child being well-behaved. Respond to and reinforce positive behavior; acknowledge or praise to let the child know you approve of what s/he is doing.
- Use encouragement rather than competition, comparison or criticism
- Overlook small annoyances and deliberately ignore provocations
- Give caring and positive attention to every child every day
- Appreciate the child's point of view

Positive Reinforcement can also be used to Discipline:

- Re-direct to a new activity to change the focus of the child's behavior
- Provide individualized attention to help the child deal with a particular situation
- Provide alternate activities and acceptable ways to release feelings
- Point out natural or logical consequences of children's behavior
- Offer choices and acceptable options to both children
- Criticize the behavior, not the child. We may say "That's not allowed at The Acting Space"
- Use time-out as last resort - removing and supervising a child for a short-time from the activity so that s/he may gain self-control for a few minutes. Not to exceed 5 minutes.
- Discuss undesirable behavior with parents upon pick-up / call during the day if needed
- Students may be discharged if undesirable behavior continues. The Acting Space will issue a refund if this occurs.