

Our Shepherd Lutheran Early Childhood program believes that a positive, loving relationship with each student is at the core of child development. We understand that within the learning process, children will make wrong choices. We believe these are valuable opportunities to help children learn conflict resolution skills, emotional regulation, empathy, and experience the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Individual situations are handled as needed with the purpose of enabling the child to grow and learn from his or her actions.

Our Shepherd Early Childhood Teachers responses to a poor choice:

- When a problem situation arises, teachers respond without anger, proceeding with the best interest of the child.
- Teachers use consistent routines, clear expectations, positive reinforcement, positive language, and redirection in the classroom as the main tools of classroom management.
- When used, consequences are provided not to punish, humiliate, or demean a child, but to allow the child to experience the results of a poor choice. This will enable him or her to make better choices in the future.
- Every child is different. Consequences will be designed to fit the needs of individual students and situations. Consequences will be as logical as possible.

At times, further intervention is required due to repeated behavior. Subject to teacher discretion, Our Shepherd maintains the following procedures of response:

- Parents will be notified of the student's behavior through a conversation, note, email, or call.
- Parents and the teacher will meet to write a behavior modification plan which will be implemented for an agreed upon amount of time and evaluated together after said time.
- Parents, the classroom teacher, and the administrator will meet to evaluate the success of the above plan and will discuss the need for other resources that can be used to help the child, if applicable.

In extreme cases where the teacher and the administrator believe that a student's behavior is actively detrimental to self or others, the student will be removed from the classroom and parents will be notified immediately.