

## Behavior Management Plan

*OCFS regulations require that we inform you about the behavior management plan we must follow:*

Preschool children and toddlers are inherently working upon and refining their social skills. At the Alcott School we help the children to develop internal self-control, independence and empathy for others. At times it becomes necessary to intervene in a child's behavior and therefore, we have developed and implemented a behavior management plan.

Alcott School's behavior management plan consists of the following techniques to pre-empt instances where behavior management is necessary and to intervene in a child's behavior as needed:

We redirect, i.e. in a conflict we provide choices and alternatives. For example, "You can either sit on the rug or at a table for story time."

- We focus on "Do" rather than "Don't." For example, "We walk inside," instead of "Stop running inside!"
- We encourage children to use friendly words rather than physical acts. For example, "This is my work."
- We praise positive behavior. For example, "I like the way you used your words."
- We model desired behaviors in order for the children to learn by example.
- We arrange the classroom space to positively impact children's behavior. For example, avoid large open spaces that might encourage children to run indoors.
- The classroom is the children's place. We listen to the children and respond to their needs proactively to achieve their goals. We aim to keep the children engaged with activities thus helping to prevent conflict.
- We involve the children in the development of the classroom rules.

The Alcott School adheres to the following guidelines when implementing behavior management techniques with a child enrolled in the program:

- Children may only be disciplined by the director, head teacher, assistant teacher or substitute.
- The Alcott School applies all rules consistently and appropriately to the ages of the children and their developmental level and abilities.
- Any behavior management used will relate to the child's actions and be handled without prolonged delay.
- A child may be briefly separated from the group, but only long enough to gain self-control and will be in view of, supervised and supported by the director, head teacher, assistant teacher or substitute.
- We do not use corporal punishment.
- We do not use methods of interaction that punish, demean or humiliate children. Nor do we physically restrain children.
- Any abuse or maltreatment of a child, either as an incident of discipline or otherwise, is prohibited. Please note that, we do not tolerate or in any manner condone an act of abuse or neglect of a child by an employee, volunteer, or any person under the programs control.