

## YPW Discipline Policy

YPW does not permit the use of physical or psychological punishment or any act of coercion. There will be no cruel, harsh or punishment. The redirection and positive guidance method of discipline is used. We follow the State Discipline and Guidance Policy as listed below:

*HHSC Minimum Standards, Chapter 744.501 (7), 746.501 (a)(7) and 747.501(5), Operational Discipline and Guidance Policy.*

❖ **Discipline must be:**

1. Individualized and consistent for each child.
2. Appropriate to the child's level of understanding.
3. Directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior and self-regulation.

❖ **Caregivers may only use positive methods of Discipline and Guidance to encourage self-esteem, self-regulation, and self-direction:**

1. Using praise and encouragement of good behavior instead of focusing only upon unacceptable behavior.
2. Reminding a child of behavior expectations daily by using clear, positive statements.
3. Redirecting behavior using positive statements.

❖ **Prohibited Types of Discipline and Guidance:**

1. Corporal punishment or threats of corporal punishment.

Example: Striking a child with a hand or object.

2. Punishment is associated with food, naps, or toilet training.

Example: Withholding food or playground time privileges as a form of punishment.

3. Pinching, shaking, or biting a child.

Example: Physically harming a child through pinching, shaking, or biting.

4. Putting anything in or on a child's mouth.

Example: Forcing a child to ingest something as a form of discipline or covering a child's mouth with the teacher's hand.

5. Humiliating, ridiculing, rejecting, or yelling at a child.

Example: Using derogatory language or yelling to change the child's behavior.

6. Subjecting a child to harsh, abusive, or profane language.

Example: Using offensive language or profanity towards a child.

7. Placing a child in a locked or dark room, bathroom, or closet with the door closed.

Example: Confining a child in an enclosed space as a form of discipline.

8. Requiring a child to remain silent or inactive for inappropriately long periods.

Example: Forcing a child to stay silent or inactive for extended durations.

❖ **Additional Guidelines:**

Physical punishment, psychological abuse, or coercion are strictly prohibited.

Example: Physically harming a child, causing emotional distress, or using threats to control behavior.

*Use of Time Out is not permitted as a disciplinary measure.*

❖ **Suspension:**

1. Suspension may be considered in extreme cases where a child's behavior poses a threat to others or themselves.
2. The decision to suspend will only be made after exhausting all other possible interventions, including but not limited to the YPW Challenging Behavior Modification Plan, and it is determined that such interventions have failed.
3. If suspension is deemed necessary, the program will offer aid to the family in accessing services and an alternative placement.

Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Chapters 746 and 747, Subchapters L, Discipline and Guidance

My signature verifies I have read and received a copy of this discipline and guidance policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Position

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date