

# Behavior Policy

## Anchorage Montessori School



### Core Philosophy:

Behavior at Anchorage Montessori School (AMS) is based on a positive attitude toward children, awareness of the developmental psychology of children, and the unique ability to view and address each child's needs as an individual. Students are taught that AMS is a peaceful school based upon mutual respect and care for the community. Teachers model appropriate behaviors, and teach students problem-solving skills and conflict resolution strategies. The goal is to help children arrive at inner discipline through concentrated work, and the child is assisted in developing the skills necessary to control his/her own actions to develop self-discipline. Natural and/or logical consequences are used as a means of helping the child to develop inner limits. Teachers explain the reasons for limits or rules to be sure children understand the need for them, and strive to create an environment to promote learning, where children feel safe and secure.

Anchorage Montessori School encourages students to show respect for differences including but not limited to race, gender, and religion. This is done while fostering a school environment free from all forms of bullying and intimidation whether physical, social, emotional, or verbal. The school's focus, based on Montessori pedagogy, is on preventative measures for such behaviors, by teaching children how to:

- Be caring and courteous
- Cooperate with others
- Deal with angry feelings
- Stand up for themselves without being aggressive
- Respect and celebrate the unique qualities of every person
- Make appropriate behavioral and academic choices

## **Procedure for Redirectable Behaviors: (All Programs)**

Inappropriate behaviors that are considered redirectable or “teachable moments” by staff (and do not involve physical contact with another student, but can still develop into disruptive situations for the classroom community) will be addressed as follows:

1. The teacher will start by redirecting the student and helping him/her get engaged in work. The teacher will continue with this step if positive progress is being made. (At this step, verbal communication with parents is recommended.)
2. If the student is not responding positively to redirection by the teacher, the teacher will help the student find a place in the classroom to calm his/her body and observe the rest of the class. The teacher will continue with this step if positive changes are being observed. (At this step, verbal communication with parents is recommended.)
3. If the student is not responding positively to sitting alone in the classroom, the teacher will then walk the child to the office. The child will remain at the office for an appropriate amount of time based on his/her age. (Written documentation to parents required at this step.)
4. If the student reaches step 3 twice in one day, the child will be excused from school for the remainder of the day. (Written documentation to parents required at this step.)
5. If step 4 is reached for five consecutive days, the student will be excused from school until a meeting can be held between the lead teacher, the parents, and the executive director. At this time a behavioral action plan will be presented and discussed. (Written documentation to parents required at this step.)

# Procedure for Unacceptable Conduct and Aggressive Behaviors

AMS defines unacceptable conduct as any behavior that creates unsafe conditions including, but not limited to, acts of bullying, physical violence, harassment, and illegal acts. AMS defines bullying as a series of repeated, intentionally cruel incidents, involving the same children, in the same bully and victim roles. Bullying is a willful, conscious desire to hurt, frighten or threaten and is ongoing in nature. It can be physical and/or verbal and includes racial, religious, and sexual harassment, offensive gestures, inappropriate touching, intimidation, extortion, and social exclusion. It is behavior that is designed to hurt, injure, embarrass, upset, or cause discomfort for the other person.

## Toddler Program:

### Hitting, Kicking, and Spitting:

1<sup>st</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will stand with a teacher. The teacher and student will discuss what was inappropriate.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will sit by himself/herself.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will be excused from school for the remainder of the day.

### Biting:

1<sup>st</sup> Offense in a Day: Parents of both students will be called.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will be excused from school for the remainder of the day.

If a maximum number of offenses is reached by a student for five consecutive school days for any of the aggressive behaviors outlined above, the student will be excused from school until a meeting can be held between the lead teacher, the parents, and the executive director. At this time a behavioral action plan will be presented and discussed.

## Primary Program:

### Hitting, Kicking, and Spitting:

1<sup>st</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will stand with a teacher or sit by himself/herself. The teacher will discuss appropriate conflict-resolution strategies.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will be excused from school for the remainder of the day.

### Biting:

1<sup>st</sup> Offense in a Day: Parents of both students will be called.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will be excused from school for the remainder of the day.

**Misuse of Materials:**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Teacher will review appropriate use of materials in the classroom with student, and then model correct behavior.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Student will be asked to put the specific material or work away for the day.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: The specific material or work will be closed to the student for a week.

4<sup>th</sup> Offense: Teacher will lead a discussion with student and parents.

**Inappropriate Language: swearing, using taunting or bullying language, speaking disrespectfully to others (students and adults):**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will stand with a teacher or sit by himself/herself. The teacher and student will discuss what was inappropriate.

Written documentation required.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will be sent to the office for an appropriate amount of time based on his/her age. Written documentation required.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will be excused from school. Written documentation required.

If a maximum number of offenses is reached by a student for three consecutive school days for any of the aggressive behaviors outlined above, the student will be excused from school until a meeting can be held between the lead teacher, the parents, and the executive director. At this time a behavioral action plan will be presented and discussed.

**Elementary Program:****Spitting, Hitting, Kicking, Bullying, and Pushing**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense in a Day: Appropriate conflict-resolution strategies will be discussed with the student. The student will spend the remainder of the day working at a solo workspace, or a space directly next to a teacher. Written documentation required.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will be excused from school. Written documentation required.

**Biting:**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense in a Day: Appropriate conflict-resolution strategies will be discussed and practiced with the student. Student will be excused from school for the remainder of the day. Parents of both students will be called. Written documentation required.

**Inappropriate Language: swearing, using taunting or bullying language, speaking disrespectfully to others (students and adults):**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will stand with a teacher or sit by himself/herself. The teacher and student will discuss what was inappropriate. Written documentation required.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will be sent to the office for an appropriate amount of time based on his/her age. Written documentation required.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will be excused from school. Written documentation required.

**Intentional Destruction of Materials or Possessions of Others:**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will stand with a teacher or sit by himself/herself to complete work. The teacher and student will discuss what was inappropriate. Student's family will be responsible for funding the replacement of destroyed materials in the classroom. Written documentation required.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense in a Day: Student will be excused from school. Written documentation required.

If a maximum number of offenses is reached by a student for two consecutive school days for any of the aggressive behaviors outlined above, the student will be excused from school until a meeting can be held between the lead teacher, the parents, and the executive director. At this time a behavioral action plan will be presented and discussed.

**Behavioral Action Plans:**

If a student has a documented history of reaching the maximum number of offenses (for either redirectable or aggressive behaviors) for five consecutive school days it is the responsibility of the lead teacher to write and implement a behavioral action plan to share with parents before the student returns to class. The executive or educational director must also be present at this meeting. The goal of the behavioral action plan is to observe, explore, and document whether accommodations/modifications in the current classroom environment will be enough to help the student be a positive and contributing member of the class. Behavioral action plans will be given a four-week period of implementation. (During this period of implementation the normal behavioral consequences as outlined above will continue to be followed.) If at the conclusion of the four week period the teacher observes positive change being made, s/he may choose to adjust the current behavioral action plan and allow for another four week period of implementation. If minimal or no positive change is being observed, the lead teacher and executive director will make a decision as to whether AMS is an appropriate environment for this student.