

DISCIPLINE INVOLVING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The goal of the children and youth programs at Grace Bible Fellowship Church is to provide a safe and beneficial environment for the spiritual growth of children. Our desire is to work alongside the parents in the development of their children and to provide open and honest communication with regard to matters of discipline. The following are guidelines to help in this effort.

APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE: When behavioral problems occur, persons working with children should take the following course of action:

1. Communicate with the child at their level and talk to them in a calm quiet manner about what behavior is expected.
2. If misbehavior continues pre-school children may be put in "Time Out" (sitting them in a classroom chair for a few minutes of non-participation).
3. When disciplinary action is conducted the teacher should communicate the incident to the child's parents or guardians after class and also to the Ministry Supervisor.
4. If the child's behavior continues to be disruptive or dangerous the immediate assistance of the Ministry Supervisor should be sought or another adult to bring the child's parent or guardian to the class to remove the child.
5. In the event that the undesired behavior is happening off church property or at a time when the parents or guardians are not in building the parents will be called and a plan of action will be decided with the parent or guardian, ministry volunteer and the Ministry Supervisor.

INAPPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE: Any person working with children shall not engage in any of the following actions toward children:

1. Inflict corporal punishment in any manner upon a child's body (hit, spank, slap, beat, shake, pinch or any other measure that produces physical discomfort.)
2. Cruel, harsh, unusual, humiliating or frightening methods of discipline including threatening the use of physical punishment.
3. Placement of a child in an unsupervised place or locked and/or dark room.
4. Public or private humiliation, yelling or abusive or profane language.

Guardians will be notified if their child displays persistent negative behavior and a conference may be set up to establish a personalized strategy for the future. We reserve the right to temporarily deny child care services to any child who has and continues to pose a threat to themselves or others while under our supervision.