

Dear Parents,

At Cedar Crest, our Children's Ministry is dedicated to providing a Christ-centered environment where children can grow spiritually, build meaningful relationships, and learn to reflect God's love in their actions. In support of this mission, we are implementing a new policy to equip our volunteer leaders with effective tools to guide classroom behavior and foster a stronger partnership with you, the parents.

Our goal is to lovingly redirect negative behavior while providing opportunities for children to grow and learn how to honor God in their interactions with others. Below, we've outlined the expectations for children and teachers in our ministry, as well as the steps that will be taken if a child needs further guidance.

Classroom Expectations for Children

Beginning in our preschool-aged classes (age 4), we encourage children to:

- Listen attentively during Bible time and group activities.
 - Share with one another, take turns, and treat others with kindness and respect.
 - Follow instructions and respond to their teachers with obedience and respect.
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Responsibilities of Volunteer Leaders

Our leaders are committed to:

- Creating a loving, respectful, and orderly atmosphere where children feel safe, encouraged, and valued.
- Using positive reinforcement and gentle correction to address behavior concerns.
- Modeling Christlike behavior and providing consistent, thoughtful guidance.

Teachers are never permitted to yell at, spank, or physically discipline children.

Reflection Point System

If a child exhibits disruptive or disrespectful behavior, teachers will first use verbal reminders, redirection, and other positive strategies to address the behavior. However, if the behavior continues, a **Reflection Point** will be issued.

Reflection Points provide an opportunity for children to pause, reflect, and learn, with parents being informed and invited to engage in the process. If a child receives **three Reflection Points within a six-week period**, parents will have two options to choose from as they shepherd their children through this time of reflection.

Option 1: At-Home Reflection

Overview: Your child steps back from class for two weeks to reflect on their behavior at home.

- **Parent Role:** Use the at-home reflection guide to help your child understand the behavior that led to this period, celebrate successes, and set goals for improvement.
- **Key Benefits:**
 - Personalized time with your child to address specific behaviors.
 - Flexibility to tailor discussions and activities to your family's schedule.

Option 2: In-Class Supervision

Overview: Attend class with your child for two weeks to offer direct support and encouragement.

- **Parent Role:** Sit with your child during class, providing guidance as needed.
- **Key Benefits:**
 - Your child experiences consistent classroom routines with added parental support.
 - Opportunity to model positive behavior and encourage participation.

In rare cases of severe behavior (e.g., intentional harm to another child or teacher or refusal to comply with classroom guidance), the child will be immediately removed from class, and parents will be contacted for further discussion.

Partnering with Parents

We believe this new system offers an opportunity for us to work together to help children grow in Christlike behavior. As parents, you play a vital role in shaping your child's heart and character. Our goal is to provide tools and resources you may find helpful to guide your child toward success, both in class and beyond.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please feel free to reach out to the Children's Ministry team. Thank you for trusting us to partner with you in the spiritual growth and care of your children. We are grateful for your partnership as we nurture a Christ-centered community for all families.

In Christ,

Sarah Klase, *Assistant Director of Children's Ministry*

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