

DAY TO DAY EXPERIENCES

Behavior Guidance and Setting Limits

CSDC teachers work proactively with children to develop a caring community in which there is respect for each other and the environment. This process may include developing classroom rules and taking on classroom chores. Based on our knowledge of each child's developmental level, we support children to be able to make good choices and to think through conflicts. We also seek to understand why the child may be behaving in a certain way. In many situations we are able to offer an alternative, but acceptable option that meets the same goals. Our first step in supporting children to act responsibly and to abide by reasonable limits is to provide a challenging and meaningful curriculum. We also want children to learn how to work through conflict over ideas and actions with peers that is respectful and leads to collaboration.

When limits are challenged we first engage the child (or children) in problem-solving the situation to see if they can identify the problems and find a solution. If our intervention is needed we phrase things positively, clearly, and, if needed, firmly, rather than using commands or negative phrases to redirecting children. We provide some explanation as to WHY certain limits are being set, so the children begin to understand the reasoning. Providing a choice for children is ideal because they then feel more in control of the decision and thus take more ownership of their behavior. CSDC teachers do not use formal time-outs, although children may be required to choose another activity or space in the classroom if they are experiencing problems. At CSDC we believe that physical punishment of children, along with shaming, ridiculing and teasing, is never acceptable in our programs.

Celebrations

CSDC hosts three Center-wide events each year that all children and families can be part of. In planning these events, we will follow basic principles for developmentally-appropriate practice: children will have choices and input about their environment; children's individual needs will be supported; activities will be designed to engage children and families; the celebrations will promote positive values; and celebrations will be designed to fit within the overall curriculum.

The three Center celebrations are:

Harvest Festival	September
Author Day/Literacy Week	February
Week of the Young Child	April

Families will receive information in advance about the events and how they can participate.

Individual classrooms sometimes choose to host their own special days, based on the interest and relevance to the lives of the children and/or families. If families have a special celebration they would like to share with the classroom, they are welcome to do so.

Birthdays at CSDC

In the full-day programs, a small group of children will get together with a teacher and brainstorm ways that the birthday child would like to celebrate. If there is something to be made for the child, these children will be the creators of the item and will make a healthy snack in honor of the birthday child. Teachers will create a "birthday board", which includes pictures and a description of the planning and celebration as a means of documentation. In the part-day programs, parents will be asked to contribute a healthy snack for the celebration.

Classroom Photos

During October each year, a CSDC staff member takes digital photographs of each classroom group. A selection of images is emailed out by the Administrative Assistant to each parent group for their personal use. In order to avoid disruption to programs, CSDC does not take posed individual portraits. During the year teachers often share documentation of children engaged in activities as part of our assessments.

Special Project

Growing a Green Generation Project

For over a decade the CSDC has collaborated with horticulture experts to create a unique experience in gardening for young children. With the assistance of funding from the Anna and Raymond Tuttle Environmental Horticulture Endowment, the CSDC has developed an extensive learning garden where we develop and pilot new activities to engage children in the delights of gardening. We offer an annual conference for regional educators, a curriculum resource book on-line, and provide consultation to teachers wishing to develop this area of the curriculum. Please go to the CSDC website and click on the sunflower icon for more information.