



Behavior Policy

Our goal is to create a respectful, fun environment where parents partner with ministry leaders to provide an exciting church experience for kids. This Behavior Policy is intended to provide the structure and expectations needed to create an environment where all children can safely enjoy Uptown's Children's Ministry programming.

Behavior Expectations

Appropriate Behavior is defined as a cooperative and respectful spirit on the part of the child. *(Workers are permitted to create more specific, age-appropriate rules.)*

Uptown's General Rules:

1. Respect others in speech and actions
2. Follow directions
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to oneself
4. Walk in all hallways
5. Care for God's House

Inappropriate Behavior is defined as defiant, disrespectful, disruptive, or harmful behavior to oneself or others. Inappropriate behavior will be addressed by a children's ministry worker and will be handled in a manner as outlined in the Discipline Policy.

Discipline Policy

1st offense = Verbal Warning: The child will be verbally made aware of the inappropriate behavior by a children's ministry worker. The worker will clearly define, without degrading or embarrassing the child, how to alter the behavior so that it is acceptable.

2nd offense = Time Out: The worker will separate the child from the class. The teacher will remind the child of the inappropriate behavior. The child will then be required to sit separate from the rest of the class, but in full view of the worker for a period of time equal to the child's age in minutes.

3rd Offense = Parent Notification: Upon the third offense, one of our Children's Ministry Leaders will speak with the child privately, explaining to them that their parents will be notified. If necessary, the child will be separated from the group for the remainder of the program.

Parent Notification

The Director will make the decision whether or not a parent needs to be notified immediately (*severe misconduct), after the program/at pick-up or via a phone call later that day. Parents will be notified every time their child's behavior results in their removal from standard activities.

***Severe Misconduct (resulting in parents being notified immediately) is defined as:

- (a) Behavior that puts the child or another person in immediate danger.
- (b) Behavior that causes disruption to the point where the class/program cannot continue.

Attention Parents

Placing your child into any of *Uptown's Children's Ministry* programs signifies your acceptance of this policy. Be assured that no child will ever receive corporal punishment on the part of the leadership or volunteers. Only discipline as outlined in this policy may be administered as deemed necessary by the children's ministry workers.

**If your child has a diagnosis that could affect his/her behavior, it would be appreciated if you communicated this to your child's teacher so that special considerations could be made.*

Positive Behavior Incentive

To help reinforce positive behavior, all children's workers will have "*Caught Being Good*" Tokens to distribute to the children when they observe good behavior. These tokens can be redeemed at *Uptown Market* or at the *AWANA Store*.