



Child Interaction Policy

PlaySmart has a responsibility to ensure that children are safe and well cared for while they are at a PlaySmart Academy. While it is desirable to show genuine warmth and affection in our interactions with children, it is important to guard against any behavior or communication that could be misunderstood or perceived as inappropriate, offensive, or dangerous. PlaySmart staff and volunteers are expected to observe the following policies:

- Staff/Volunteers must NEVER be alone with a child at any time, including taking them to the bathroom.
- If you touch a child for any reason (i.e., handshake, shoulder tap), ensure that another adult is in clear view.
- Under no circumstances may an adult hit a child.
- When touching children, contact should generally be limited to the hand, shoulder, or upper back. Children should never be touched in a place normally covered by a bathing suit, unless for a clear medical necessity, and then only in the presence of another adult/staff.
- Hugs should be avoided. A handshake or fist bumps or other more appropriate ways to interact should be used.
- Staff/volunteers should never touch a child against her or his will, unless in the case of clear and present danger to the child.
- A staff/volunteer adult should never touch a child against her or his discomfort, whether expressed verbally or non-verbally.
- The physical right to privacy of a child should be respected to the greatest extent possible, especially in activities and situations such as sleeping, changing of clothing, showering/bathing, and other bathroom activities.
- Do not assist a child in using the bathroom unless they are young enough to need your help AND there is another adult present.
- Do not give children "piggyback" rides or carry them over your shoulder.
- There will be no physical contact with children, except when appropriate in a group setting. For example, an occasional pat on the arm or shoulder can be OK if the child is receptive. Prolonged physical contact or roughhousing is prohibited.
- Report any accidents or injuries, however minor, to the PlaySmart Academy Director (or immediate supervisor). Staff will complete an injury/incident report form.
- Be familiar with PlaySmart Academy rules and enforce them appropriately.
- Remember, it is not your role to discipline a child, either physically or verbally. If a child continues to break rules after reminders and attempts to redirect his/her behavior, PlaySmart staff will be asked to intervene.
- Under no conditions will corporal punishment be used at the PlaySmart Academy nor will threats of corporal punishment be made. This includes the use of any physical activity (pushups, sit ups, etc.) to correct a behavior.
- Violation of this Child Interaction Policy may be grounds for termination of PlaySmart Academy staff/volunteer.

I have read this Child Interaction Policy and understand that it is my responsibility to comply with it, and I agree to do so.

Name

Signature

Date