

**POLICY STATEMENT ON DISCIPLINE
DCF Child Care Providers**

The following are some examples of **unacceptable** forms of discipline:

Humiliating, frightening or physically harming a child;

Punishing such as spanking (with the hand or any object), slapping, shaking, swatting, pulling hair, dunking, yanking the arm or anything similar;

Making verbal remarks using sarcasm, put-downs, verbal cuts, derogatory remarks, any other verbal abuse, and threats about the child or the child's family.

Binding or tying to restrict movement, or ***enclosing*** in a confined space such as a closet, locked room, furniture, box or cubicle;

Withholding or forcing foods or liquids;

Placing substances which sting or burn on any of a child's body parts.

It shall be the policy of the Department for Children and Families not to purchase or continue to purchase services from providers who use unacceptable discipline.

Discipline is an essential part of child rearing, and when used positively it contributes to the healthy growth and development of a child. Positive discipline establishes acceptable patterns of behavior that promote behaviors beneficial to the child's development and welfare. It changes or eliminates behaviors which are injurious to the child's well-being. Positive discipline is encouraged as an important part of child rearing for children and youth for whom the Department for Children and Families purchases and/or provides services and care.

Positive discipline, when used for purposes of guiding and teaching the child, provides to the child encouragement, a sense of satisfaction, and it helps the child understand the consequences of behavior. Effective, positive discipline imposes behavioral limits on the child which can provide a sense of security, a respect for order, and enable the child to predict and understand surroundings. Positive discipline effectively enlists the child's help rather than locking the child and adult into a power struggle or adversarial, punishing relationship. Positive discipline promotes the child's discovery of those values that will be of the greatest benefit to the child, both now and in the future.

I have read and understand the above policy on discipline.

Provider Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Distribution: Original - DCF File; Copy – Provider/Parent
(DCF Staff)