Guidance & Discipline Philosophy

Positive guidance and how we support behavior

Effective: September 2026 | Reviewed Annually

At Country Lane Early Learning, we believe children learn best in a loving, respectful, structured, and supportive environment. Our approach to guidance focuses on teaching appropriate behaviors, building emotional regulation, and helping children develop self-control, responsibility, confidence, kindness, and healthy social interactions, consistent with Utah childcare licensing child guidance standards (R430-90-12).

Our Guidance Philosophy

- We use the term guidance rather than punishment because our goal is to teach children appropriate behaviors and self-discipline rather than simply correcting unwanted behaviors.
- Children are encouraged to become respectful, independent, responsible, and socially confident individuals.
- Consistent expectations and follow-through help children feel safe, secure, and successful within the childcare environment.
- Children are expected to show respect toward parents, caregivers, teachers, peers, and others in responsible positions.
- Positive guidance helps children learn self-regulation, empathy, communication skills, accountability, problem-solving, and appropriate decision-making.

Positive Guidance Strategies

- A child-friendly environment designed to encourage safe exploration, independence, and successful interactions.
- Clear and consistent expectations such as using kind words, listening carefully, following directions, and keeping hands to ourselves.
- Developmentally appropriate activities and routines based on children's ages, interests, and abilities.
- Positive reinforcement and encouragement for respectful behavior and responsible choices.
- Redirection toward more appropriate activities or solutions when conflicts or frustrations arise.
- Positive reminders that focus on what children should do rather than repeated use of "no" or "don't."
- Calm-down or renewal time when a child needs a brief opportunity to regain self-control before returning to activities.
- Modeling respectful communication, emotional regulation, and problem-solving skills throughout the day.

Working Together with Families

- Open communication and partnership between families and caregivers are essential for supporting

children successfully.

- Families will be informed of ongoing behavioral concerns and included in developing solutions and support strategies.
- Consistency between home and childcare expectations helps children feel secure and successful.
- Our goal is always to work together as a team to help each child succeed socially, emotionally, and behaviorally.

Behavior Support Process

- Initial Consultation: A meeting may be scheduled with parents or guardians to discuss concerns, identify possible causes, and create a behavior support plan together.
- Follow-Up Consultation: If concerns continue, additional meetings may be scheduled to review progress, adjust strategies, and discuss additional support options or resources.
- Outside Support: Families may be encouraged to seek guidance from behavioral specialists, therapists, medical providers, or other professionals when appropriate.
- Disenrollment: If all reasonable efforts have been exhausted and a child's behavior continues to compromise the safety or well-being of themselves, other children, or staff, childcare services may be discontinued in accordance with the Termination of Care section of the Childcare Services Contract.

Safety & Respect

- Children will always be treated with dignity, patience, consistency, and respect.
- Corporal punishment, humiliation, shaming, withholding food, or physical discipline are never permitted.
- The safety and emotional well-being of all children in our care will always remain a top priority.

Questions & Program Contact

Questions about our guidance approach or a specific behavior concern may be directed to: Sara Kingston, Program Coordinator/Director, sara@countrylaneearlylearning.com, (435) 255-8499.

Our goal is to help children learn positive behaviors, build confidence, strengthen emotional regulation, and develop respectful relationships in a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment.