

Bethesda Lutheran Church

DISCIPLINE POLICY

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

Behavior Guidelines

Appropriate behavior is defined as the child being respectful, cooperative, responsible and safe. Inappropriate behavior is defined as defiant, disruptive or harmful behavior to oneself or others. Inappropriate behavior will be addressed by a children's ministry leader and will be handled in a manner as outlined in the Discipline Policy.

Discipline Policy

- 1 First offense = Verbal Warning**

The child will be separated from the other children and verbally made aware of the inappropriate behavior by a children's ministry leader. The leader will clearly define, without degrading or embarrassing the child, how to alter the behavior so that it is acceptable.
- 2 Second offense = Time-out**

The leader will separate the child from the activity area. The leader will remind the child of the inappropriate behavior and again discuss alternative, acceptable behaviors. The child will then be required to sit separate from the rest of the class, but in full view of the leader. The child will be able to rejoin the following activity.
- 3 Third offense = Director Speaks with the Child**

Upon the third offense, our Youth Director or Sunday School Coordinator will speak with the child in the hallway, explaining the consequences for continued poor behavior. The child will again be able to rejoin the following activity however, the parent/guardian will be notified of this incident at pickup time.
- 4 Fourth offense = Parent Involvement**

If the child continues to act inappropriately after steps 1-3, the parent or guardian will be contacted and asked to remove the child for the remainder of the class. If parent involvement is necessary for two consecutively attended weeks, the parent/guardian will be asked to stay with their child and provide 1:1 supervision for the next week's class.

Attention Parents!

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