

## Behavior Guidelines

*Our goal is to create a respectful, fun environment where parents partner with ministry leaders to provide an exciting spiritual experience for kids. These guidelines and policies are intended to provide the structure and expectations needed to create an environment where all children can safely enjoy BBUMC's children's ministry programs. Children are expected to follow these behavior guidelines at all times:*

### **Be respectful of the teacher, classmates and self.**

"Here is my command. Love each other, just as I have loved you." *John 15:12*

### **Treat others the way you want to be treated.**

"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you." *Matthew 7:12*

### **Use kind words.**

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

*Galatians 5:22-23*

### **Leave the room better than you found it.**

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

*1 Corinthians 10:26*

*Appropriate behavior* is defined as a cooperative spirit on the part of the child.

*Inappropriate behavior* is defined as any action that chronically disrupts the learning process or is an act of willful disrespect.

## Discipline Policy

### **1<sup>st</sup> occurrence = Verbal Warning**

The child will be separated from other children and verbally made aware of inappropriate behavior by the children's ministry leader. The leader will clearly define to the child how to alter the behavior so that it is acceptable.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence = Time-Out**

The leader will separate the child from the class. The leader 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 leader, for a period of time equal to the child's age in minutes up to 5 minutes.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence = Speak with Director**

The Christian Education Director will speak with the child in the hallway, explaining the consequences for continued poor behavior. The child will be reminded that their parents will be notified.

### **Severe Misconduct**

If the child continues to exhibit these inappropriate behaviors after implementation of all the steps, the child's participation may be suspended for a period of time. After completion of this period of time, the child will be invited to return to the program.

## Parent Involvement

### **Parent Notification**

The Christian Education Director will make the decision whether or not a parent needs to be notified during the program, after the program at pick-up, or via phone call later in the day. Our goal is to talk to the parent in a private location, in person and after the program when possible. Parents will be notified every time their child's behavior results in their removal from activities. A meeting with the parent, child, Director and/or Pastor may be requested to discuss solutions. If steps 1-3 are a common occurrence, the Director may ask the parent to attend the program and/or events with their child for a determined period of time.



### **Attention Parents!**

Placing your child into any of BBUMC's programs signifies your acceptance of this policy. Only discipline as outlined in this policy may be administered as deemed necessary by the children's ministry leaders. We encourage you to join our BBUMC Children's Ministry team as we partner with parents to discipline - and disciple - the children God has entrusted to us!

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*The word "discipline" means to make a disciple. This involves teaching a child to live properly before God and in all aspects of life. At Big Beaver United Methodist Church, we want children to internalize the Biblical principles we teach and to grow in their personal relationship with God. Only the Holy Spirit accomplishes a change in heart. However, structure, boundaries, and consequences help develop habits of discipline. We believe that when students know what is expected of them, we are able to create an environment where students can grow and exercise their faith.*



Big Beaver  
United  
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Church

## Children's Ministry

### *Behavior Guidelines & Discipline Policy* (PreK – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)