



CO-OPERATIVE GROUND RULES

Co-ops are fragile organizations, which depend on the co-operation, and goodwill of people who start out as strangers and who have differing ideas about how things should be done. In order to keep from unintentionally hurting someone's feelings, be overly tactful in all situations.

Think of the good of the group and try not to be too quick to judge. "Grapevine mutterings" can be very destructive to the morale of any volunteer group and should be consciously avoided. Any problems or criticisms should be brought to the attention of the Executive as soon as possible. The Executive will do their best to keep everything running smoothly, and everyone informed of what's happening. However, they are volunteers, and human, and oversights and crises do happen, even with the best of planning. The best policy is to assume that all slights are unintentional.

THE CLASSROOM IS THE TEACHER'S DOMAIN AND THEY MUST BE THE ONLY AUTHORITIES.

Try to view your Volunteer Day as an opportunity to learn new ideas for handling preschoolers. Follow the lead of the teacher.

Below are some guidelines to help you be the most help to the teacher:

1. Never raise your voice or swear in the classroom.
2. Allow the teachers to handle all disciplinary problems ALONE, including ones with your own child.
3. Spanking or physically punishing a child is illegal in a licensed nursery.
4. If trouble occurs, go to the area yourself and try to distract the participants calmly and quietly.
5. Bend over backward to be uncritical of your own child's behaviour. Children usually behave differently when their parents are in the classroom. Your anxiety and disapproval will often make matters worse. Ignore anything you can't lovingly approve of.
6. Don't embarrass your child by scolding them in front of other children. Let the teachers handle the problem if there is one. Try not to be embarrassed yourself - it happens to the best of us!