

Alpharetta Presbyterian Church
Children and Youth Ministry
Discipline Policy

Children and youth must have clear, consistent and appropriate limits in order to learn self-control, generosity and respect for God and others. We teach children about God in a loving and caring environment. Teachers, adult and youth volunteers, advisors and staff at APC will model appropriate behavior and manners. They will use positive reinforcement, redirection and distraction to address inappropriate behavior.

When children need discipline, they are always reminded, while loved, their behavior is unacceptable. We respect all children and youth for who they are, and we nurture them where they are. We unconditionally love them. Neither children nor adults are perfect. We can only strive together to be our best in God's glory. If a child's behavior is inappropriate or potentially harmful, the assigned volunteer to that child/youth's class, group, activity or event should:

1. Encourage him/her to stop, and re-direct his/her energy to a positive behavior. Explain clearly why his/her behavior is inappropriate or harmful.
2. If the inappropriate behavior persists, warn the child/youth that he/she will need to change seats or be removed from the group or activity.
3. If the inappropriate behavior still continues, verbally direct the child/ youth away from the group or activity for a set time (1 minute for each year of age), **but** keep him/her in the room/area.
4. If, upon returning to the group/activity, the inappropriate behavior continues, speak to him/her privately, and encourage appropriate behavior. The private location should be visible to other adults (such as a hallway).
 - a. If the inappropriate behavior continues once the child/youth returns, the parents or guardians should be contacted immediately to retrieve him/her.
 - b. If the inappropriate behavior ceases after the above measures, the parents or guardians must be notified at the **end of the class or event** that their child/youth was removed briefly. If the volunteer/leader is uncomfortable speaking with the parents, inform the director of Children's Ministries or the director of Youth Ministries so that he/she may quietly speak with the parents.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."
- Proverbs 22

