

Ventura Wild Behavior Policy

Generally children are excited and happy to participate in our programs, and we don't typically have behavior issues. We keep kids involved, inspired, and their needs are both physically and emotionally met by caring, attentive staff. Instructors provide clear, positive verbal and modeled expectations rooted in the Ventura Wild Agreements: *Take care of yourself, Take care of each other, and Take care of the Earth*. Sometimes students have challenging days, and frequently those challenges stem from a physical or emotional need that is unmet. We *always* assess a child's comfort before intervening with an undesirable behavior. We set clear agreements at the beginning of each season as a group, and review how we are doing throughout each day. We address issues that come up immediately and are able to discuss solutions and practice good communication skills.

We have found that setting expectations lets everyone know that we do have them! If behavior consistently endangers the safety and quality of the experience of an individual or the group, there are certain interventions we will take.

Ventura Wild Behavior Interventions

1. **Level One:** Students will receive encouraging verbal reminders of the program agreements and concrete opportunities to redirect their behavior. If the challenging behavior involves another student, an instructor will guide the child to check in with their peer, and facilitate an age appropriate discussion to process and resolve the issue. (some situations may demand skipping to immediate removal)
2. **Level Two:** Repeated conflicts, or events that jeopardize the health and safety of the student or others, will result in a phone call to parents/guardians to have a collaborative discussion to reinforce the agreements and expectations, and develop a plan to best help the student.
3. **Level Three:** If all other interventions have been ineffective, there is continued non-compliance, or a serious misconduct* has occurred, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up the child immediately. This may be for a class, a season or indefinitely depending on the severity of the offense.

*Serious misconduct is behavior that puts the student and/or others in danger, for example:

1. Purposefully leaving adult supervision
2. Threatening or causing physical or emotional harm to self or others
3. Repeated defiance and non-compliance with agreements and staff requests

Some of our general expectations for every group include:

- 1) Students will remain with the group and within designated boundaries.
- 2) No cell phones or any electronic devices *
- 3) Students will follow all the group agreements, which include (group adds their own ideas too):

Students will show respect for:

Themselves – hat, sunscreen, water, food, appropriate clothing, and avoid actions that

could result in self injury.

Others – avoid play that could result in injury of others, respect other people’s requests, no means no) and engage in appropriate talk and treatment of others.

Place – pick up trash, avoid damaging plants or animal and their homes, be respectful and engage in appropriate behavior - leave no trace and cause no harm.

*A note on cell phones and electronics: Give your child the gift of independence from their phone/electronic devices during programs. The purpose of the policy is two-fold:

- In our efforts to build community, we want the students 100% present.
- A call home or time spent “plugged in” disrupts the ability to connect and be present.