



PROHIBITED PRACTICES

MLCP staff, volunteers and students are expected to be familiar with the prohibited practices and support the implementation protocols included in this section. Review HDLH where information on ways adults can engage in positive, responsive interactions and why this is critical for children's overall learning, development, health and well-being is available. Variances from the norm in dealing with the students, parents or staff members must be dealt with professionally.

These provisions forbid physical punishment and other harmful disciplinary practices to protect the emotional and physical well-being of children. They set out clear direction regarding prohibitive practices to support the overall well-being of children.

Young children benefit from an affirming approach that encourages positive interactions with other children and with adults, rather than from a negative or punitive approach to managing unwanted behavior.

By following Montessori's guidelines and the practices suggested by HDLH, the following can be managed quite easily. Prohibited practices include:

- ❖ corporal punishment of the child including hitting, spanking, slapping and pinching
- ❖ physical restraint of the child, such as confining the child to a highchair, car seat, stroller or other device for the purposes of discipline or in lieu of supervision, unless the physical restraint is for the purpose of preventing a child from hurting himself, herself or someone else, and is used only as a last resort and only until the risk of injury is no longer imminent
- ❖ locking the exits of the child care centre or home child care premises for the purpose of confining the child, or confining the child in an area or room without adult supervision, unless such confinement occurs during an emergency and is required as part of the licensee's emergency management policies and procedures
- ❖ use of harsh or degrading measures or threats or use of derogatory language directed at or used in the presence of a child that would humiliate, shame or frighten the child or undermine his or her self-respect, dignity or self-worth
- ❖ depriving the child of basic needs including food, drink, shelter, sleep, toilet use, clothing or bedding
- ❖ inflicting any bodily harm on children including making children eat or drink against their will



No employee or volunteer of the licensee, or student who is on an educational placement with the licensee shall engage in any of the prohibited practices set out above with respect to a child receiving child care.

Should these be observed or reported they will be documented, discussed and carefully monitored moving forward (see Staff Accident & Incident Occurrence Report).

Should same behaviors be reported or observed, staff may be required to attend pertinent workshops or seminars, they may be removed from their area of responsibility or, depending on the severity, suspended without pay or terminated.

Blatant intentional physical harm to a child will result in immediate termination.