

We love children at TAC!

They are the future of the church and the **means by which the next generation might hear of the glorious deeds of the Lord.**

We who serve in Children's Ministry take our responsibility very seriously and want to do all we can to make disciples of our children and encourage the parents as they carry the primary role of building faith in their children.

Why do we have behavioral guidelines & principles?

- God has blessed us with Murdoch MacKay Collegiate to use on Sunday mornings. These policies promote our children's safety and maintain a continued relationship with the school.
- To follow Jesus is to obey Jesus and submit to His authority. Discipline is an important part of building discipleship in children. Jesus said, "All those who love me will do what I say." (John 14:23).



Thank you for taking the time to read this brochure. Please talk about these guidelines with your children.

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TAC Behavioral Guidelines & Principles



Guiding Principles

The goal of our ministry is to **develop kids who passionately love God.**

Although it is possible to control the outward actions of a child, our desire is to **disciple children to truly love God** and desire to serve Him. So, we maintain discipline not only to mold character, but in the hope that our children will learn to love God and obey His commands.

We are **realistic about our expectations** of children at TAC. We have high standards of behavior but we will always remember that each child that arrives Sunday morning has come from a different situation and circumstance. We will do our best to consider each child and their limits and try to ensure that their needs are met as much as possible.

Parents are ultimately responsible for the behavior and safety of their children. We will expect parents to ensure their children are under adult supervision while they are in the building. If a child is not in class, their parents are responsible for their behavior. When in class, TACK Staff will be expected to maintain order and the appropriate behavior of the children in their class. If a child is not responsive to any of the permissible forms of classroom discipline, they will be taken to their parents.

It is our desire to **partner with parents** and provide help, encouragement and resources. We will stand with our parents in prayer for our children.

Expectations of Children at TAC

Our expectations of children at TAC are built on the foundation of respect. Although specific rules may vary depending on the program, class, or activity, all expectations/rules are based on the following 4 goals for our children.

1 Respect for God's Word. Children will be expected to show respect to God's Word as the final authority on behavior. This includes respecting God and treating Him as worthy of the highest praise. Using God's name without respect will not be tolerated.

2 Respect for Adults. We want the children of TAC to honor their teachers and all adults with respectful speech and behavior. Sassing or defying instruction are examples of disrespectful behavior. As a sign of respect we also encourage our children to address adults as Mr., Mrs., or Miss. All TACK Staff will have nametags indicating how they would like to be addressed by children of TAC.

3 Respect for Others. Jesus told us to treat others the way we would like to be treated (Matt. 7:12). It is our desire to provide a safe environment for all children at TAC. Children will be encouraged to treat each other with kindness and humility. Children will be encouraged to think before they speak and to find encouraging words to speak to each other. Mean, crude, or hurtful speech or actions are therefore not acceptable.

4 Respect for Themselves. We will encourage children not to act in ways that will put their bodies or their faith at risk.

Discipline Practices at TAC

"Discipline" comes from the root word "disciple", which means "training that molds character, behavior and values". **We want to shape disciples of Jesus by managing children's behavior.** Therefore, discipline is primarily positive. Those who work with children at TAC will be quick to encourage and affirm positive behavior. We also encourage immediate and consistent responses to negative behavior so that it does not become a serious problem. **If parents are present we will expect them to discipline their children when they misbehave.**

When parents are not present, TACK Staff will first speak to the child and issue a warning. If the child chooses to continue the unacceptable behavior, they may be denied a privilege or isolated from the group for a time. If necessary, TACK Staff will take the child to his/her parents.

TAC staff will not employ any form of physical correction. They are permitted to gently restrain a child to keep the child from hurting themselves or others.

