

THE KINDERPLATZ WAY

The way Kinderplatz is set up lends itself beautifully to whole child development. Children tend to gravitate toward what interests them. At Kinderplatz, our program was created to stimulate every part of the brain and body.

Below you will find some of those Kinderplatz ways that begin in the Lower School and are followed all the way through the school. These are not negotiable. They are the glue that makes us a high-class, professional team. Read them, memorize them, look over them often, and above all else, put them into practice and never deviate from them.

THE HANDCLAP

When the handclap is given **even the adults in the room** should stop, look, listen, and clap. Watch closely for the children who do not respond well so that you will know who is going to need your assistance and can be prepared to go to them, in advance, next time and help them **non-verbally**.

Unless you are the person who orchestrated the handclap, **do not talk or address the children**. You may use a nonverbal sign but no noises or words. Anyone who **speaks** after the handclap will sabotage it and send mixed messages. Remember to model the behavior you expect. The only voice should be the voice of the one who clapped. All other voices should be **silent**.

The handclap is your tool to gain control. The children must know that **you expect** them to stop, look and listen because **you have something important to say and they need to stop and listen**. Make sure what you are going to say is important. Use another means of getting attention if it is not important.

Using the lights to signal cleanup time rather than the hand clap will keep the children from thinking the hand clap means clean up time.

ATTITUDE/SOCIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (DISCIPLINE & GUIDANCE)

A positive approach is usually successful in all areas and should be stressed by all staff members. It is important to be gentle, but firm and consistent; children need parameters and will continue to test anyone who is inconsistent in their expectations of the students. Make these expectations clear and allow children to work out any problems or differences that develop. We do not put children in time out for punishment. It is a method to help them calm down. Once a child is calm, you must go through the communication station guidelines to give them appropriate tools for problem solving. Use the *Communication Station Guidelines* posted in each classroom as a guide.

Communication Station Guidelines

One Child/One Teacher:

1. Tell me what just happened?
2. How did that make you feel?
3. Do you think that was a good choice?
4. What could you do differently to solve this problem so that...

Two or More Children:

1. Tell me what just happened?
2. How did that make you feel?
3. Was that a good choice?
4. What could you do to solve this problem so that...

Make an effort to understand the child's reason for what he/she did, ask those involved what occurred, and assess the situation as necessary.