

Welcome to The Treehouse

The foundation of our program
By Cheryl Moore and Janet Andersen

Be Safe and Be Kind

The Treehouse has two rules: be safe and be kind. We believe all other rules fall under this umbrella.

Being kind is a school wide culture in all of our programs.

- Kind to children
- Kind to staff
- Kind to parents
- Kind to our school and supplies

And more than just no hitting and no kicking. It is shown and taught in interactions all day long.

The following slides will show some examples

Kindness



Being kind is as simple as teaching our friends to help each other. Other times a teacher will help a child and then look to see if they can transfer the skill to another child. This helps to teach the other children how to be kind.

Lots of conversation about thank you Lacy for being so kind to your friend Mary and helping her across the stump.

Kindness



Kindness is also helping children play together.

If a child comes up and wants to join the group plan, the answer is always yes.

It is our job as the teacher to help the child join the play.

You may need to help

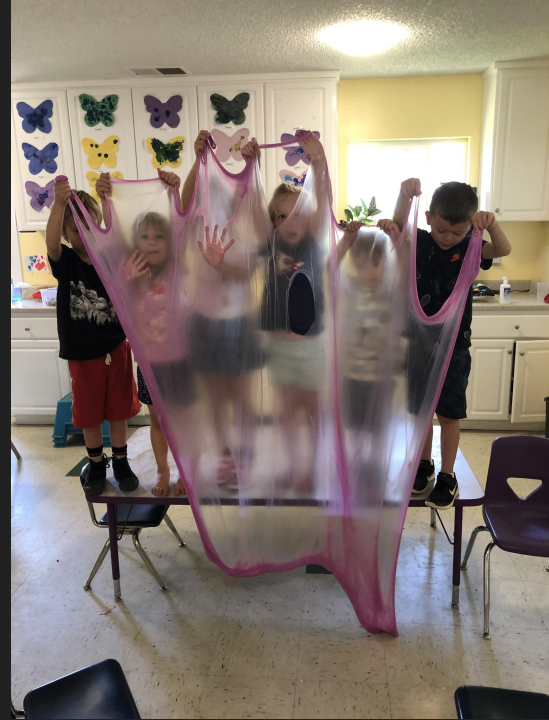
- Find a toy the entering child can use
- Negotiate time for the preferred toy
- Help the entering child see the group plan

Be Safe

We want everyone at The Treehouse to be safe but we also want them to explore and challenge their bodies.

This philosophy can lead to a lot of gray areas.

This picture is a good example. The children were trying to see how big they could make the slime so the teacher suggested they stand on the table to get more height. She felt it was safe to let them do that but would not let them stand on the tables to play for no reason.



Value of Play

The value of play is deeply rooted in our philosophy. But what we know is that children of all ages need our help to be successful.

The best way to be successful in our program is to sit down and play with the children. We value playing with the children vs standing and supervising.

The teacher's role is to help children (especially the ones with low play skills) be successful in group settings



Value of Problem Solving



Teaching children how to problem solve is a lifelong skill

To help teach problem solving

- Ask kids questions “what do you need to make that work”, “what would happen if you _____”
- Set up invitations for play that challenge children to problem solve

Treat Children as individuals

This is a hard concept to understand and explain.

We look at each child as an individual and know that we might need an individual plan for helping them be successful.

We do not have a one size fits all program.

We will train you on certain children but ask questions to learn more about this concept

Questions

Our guess is after you watch this presentation you probably have some questions.

Please come to Cheryl or Janet with you questions or comments.

Do you have questions about certain kids?

Questions about how to implement some of these ideas?

Suggestions on things to add to the presentation or areas that are unclear.

We want your feedback in person, via text or email.