

## FOSTER HOMES DISCIPLINE POLICY

Confidentiality

It is required that I inform the appropriate individuals of information learned during the process of caring for a child ONLY under the following circumstances:

1. When required to do so, when under oath, in a court of law
2. In the event that I become aware of abuse of a child (Child, Family & Community Services Act)
3. When the safety of the child and/or others would be jeopardized (duty to warn)
4. When required by a delegated worker or the Provincial Director

As a foster parent for Nezul Be Hunuyeh Child & Family Services and Tl'azt'en and Nak'azdli First Nations, I will be responsible for my actions and any breach of confidentiality. I am aware that any breach of confidentiality may result in the closure of my home, and the removal of any children in my care.

### MANDATE

In keeping with legislation requirements and principles of the Child, Family and Community Service Act, the safety and well-being of children in care must have paramount consideration. The following principles and policy is for children in foster homes and all other child care resources.

### MINISTRY EXPECTATIONS

Children in care require individualized discipline that meets the child's unique needs.

The Ministry expects caregivers to use positive methods and approaches to discipline children in care.

The Ministry does not permit the use of physical, emotional or psychological punishment for **ANY** child in care.

### DEFINITIONS

1. Acceptable Discipline leads to a positive learning experience that helps the child to learn to control, modify, change and maintain behavior. The objective of discipline is to teach consequences of behavior and to lead one to self-responsibility through choice. Acceptable discipline implies age appropriate expectations and natural consequences; praise and encouragement, modelling, consistent limits and effective communication.
2. Unacceptable Discipline includes the deliberate use of physical acts (eg: hitting, shaking, pinching, inappropriate containing or restraining), psychological acts (eg: belittlement, rejection, emotional cruelty), and physical and emotional deprivation (eg: withholding food, isolation, ignoring for hours or days). A common assumption is that punishment, pain, or humiliation will stop the child's unacceptable behavior. While some methods of unacceptable discipline may seem effective at the time, they tend not to lead to positive behavior changes.

The Ministry acknowledges its responsibility to assist staff and caregivers with support and educational opportunities to develop a range of positive methods and approaches for discipline.