East Cascades Audubon Society

Positive Guidance/Discipline Policy

The purpose of this policy is to teach children to interact positively with adults and other children and develop self-control. Positive guidance techniques will be used in all interactions with children during East Cascades Audubon Society (ECAS) sponsored activities:

1) ECAS volunteers will act as positive role models in their interactions with children. When problems arise, volunteers will deal with them in a calm, matter-of-fact manner, listen to each child’s story, interpret the source of the problem, and help the child solve the problem.
2) Volunteers will use praise and positive reinforcement when children engage in good behavior.
3) Volunteers will redirect undesirable behavior into alternative activities.
4) Time-outs should be used sparingly, and should be less than two minutes. Before a time-out is given, the volunteer should take the child aside and ask the child to explain the reasons for his/her actions, discuss the undesirable behavior and alternative actions s/he could have used, and assist the child in finding an activity in which s/he can be successful. Only if this approach is unsuccessful should a time-out be given.
5) The following or similar forms of punishment are prohibited:
   a. Hitting, slapping, shaking, striking with hand or instrument, pinching, tying or binding or inflicting any other form of corporal punishment;
   b. Mental or emotional punishment, including but not limited to name-calling, ridicule, yelling or threats;
   c. Non-prescription chemical restraints used for discipline or to control behavior;
   d. Confining a child in an enclosed area such as a locked or closed room, closet or box;
   e. Forcing or withholding meals, snacks, rest, or necessary toilet use; or
   f. Belittling a child for or forcing a child to clean up after toileting accidents.

If you wish to report a violation of, or have questions or concerns about compliance with, the Positive Guidance/Discipline Policy, please call ECAS’s Compliance Officer (contact information on ECAS website, www.ecaudubon.com). Reports and inquiries will be kept confidential to the extent consistent with the need to conduct an adequate investigation.

I, ___________________________ [Print Name], have read and will follow the foregoing policy in my interactions with children during activities sponsored by East Cascades Audubon Society.

__________________________________________________  ___________________________
Signature                                                      Date

adopted September 1, 2015