



NEW CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

865 E. Wilmette Road – Suite A

Palatine, Illinois 60074-6493

Phone: 847-359-8690 Fax: 847-359-8691

SPECIAL TREATMENT TECHNIQUES

(Parent/Guardian-please *keep* this information)

The faculty of New Connections Academy believes that development will progress as long as a child experiences love and affection, consistency of care, and a stimulating environment. If problem generated behavior or emotional disturbances become evident, a fourth element becomes necessary for normal development; a consistent cognitive/narrative restructuring to help the child learn the skills and behaviors (academic, social and emotional) necessary to succeed and thrive in the school environment.

During the school day, the staff identifies problem-dominated situations for the student and explain, in non-confrontive ways, why the behavior is unsuccessful. They point out the negative effects of the problem on the student, suggest alternative behaviors and help the student practice them in nurturing and non-punitive interactions.

At times, the student's problems may persist in encouraging disruptive and disturbing behaviors. At such times, the student will be asked to leave the activity but remain in the proximity of the rest of the group while taking a "time out". If the behavior continues to disrupt the group, the student may be removed from the class, with a referral to the "Behavioral Intervention Services" (BIS) personnel. This behavior intervention specialist will be a person trained in crisis intervention, de-escalating conflict, and helping the student reconnect with more preferred behaviors.

Once calm, the child will discuss the problem with the staff member, identifying what the problem was as well as alternative ways it could have been handled. The child will then rejoin the class and follow through on any logical consequences to the problematic behavior.

If a student has been removed from class for 15 minutes without starting to resolve the problem, the principal (or his/her designee) will be notified for consultation.

If a student is acting in a manner, which indicates the possibility of physical confrontation, the staff will make every effort to remove the immediate stressor from the situation, telling the student he/she needs time to clam down. If there is a risk to other students, they will be taken to another area while the other staff attend to the potentially aggressive student.

With some students, it may be appropriate to engage in therapeutic “holding” to prevent injury to self or others. This involves physical holding of arms and/or legs, in a manner as unobtrusive as possible. After a physical hold, the staff, including the nurse, will evaluate if there is any injury to student or staff and follow up appropriately. Such cases will be referred to the principal for administrative review and parent notification. The safety and dignity of the child, as well as the safety of peers and staff, is of paramount importance. Staff training in crisis prevention and non-violent intervention techniques is provided by New Connections Academy and is required of all faculty members.

If a physical hold exceeds 15 minutes, the school will:

1. Notify the nurse and principal.
2. Provide written notification to parents and school district.
3. Conduct an analysis of the effectiveness of the current behavioral intervention with the child.
4. Consider altering the behavior intervention plan for the student.
5. Inform the parent or guardian and school district (in writing) of the student's potential need for an alternative placement.
6. Place this analysis in the student's record.

If a student is persisting in threatening harm to self or others the parents will be notified, a hospital assessment team may be asked to come in, and/or the police may be called to maintain safety for the student and the rest of the school. The involvement of the police will necessitate the careful assessment of whether this student is still appropriate for the open setting desired by New Connections Academy. If it is determined that the student may resume attendance at New Connections Academy a parent meeting will be held prior to the student rejoining school activities. New Connections Academy follows all procedures specified in the 23 Illinois Administrative Code CH. I, S. Subpart B Section 1.285.

We do not endorse the use of time out rooms, physical or mechanical restraint or confrontive and punitive interventions. New Connections Academy does not engage in physical holding of a student as a consequence of profanity or other verbal display of disrespect for themselves or others. Students can learn to act in safe and appropriate ways through the positive guidance of nurturing adults.



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2011-2012 School Year

RE: _____
Student Name (please print student's full name)

I have received and reviewed a copy of the **New Connections Academy**
SPECIAL TREATMENT TECHNIQUES.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

(Please complete this sheet and return– keep the attached information sheet)