

Professional Boundaries

1

What ...

Professional boundaries differentiate appropriate actions from inappropriate ones, helping maintain the integrity of relationships between educators, children and families.



2

Why ...

Teachers have power due to their expertise, access to sensitive information, and ability to impact children's development. Professional boundaries ensure that this power is used fairly and responsibly, maintaining trust with families and promoting a positive child development environment.



3

Who ...

Teachers often develop close, intimate relationships with families. These relationships must remain professional to avoid conflicts of interest, while still being human and building trust. Teachers may also face dual relationships when their personal and professional lives overlap with families.



4

Ask ...

- Does this action prioritize the child/family's well-being over personal interests?
- Is the action fair to all children/families, and does it avoid favoritism or bias?
- Am I sharing personal information or giving advice beyond my expertise?



5

How ...

- *Professional Distance* -- Keep personal life private, focusing on children development.
- *Clear Communication* -- Ensure families understand your role and set expectations.
- *Adhere to Procedures* -- Stick to center policies to maintain uniformity and safety.
- *Physical Boundaries* -- Respect children's personal space and maintain appropriate physical interactions.
- *Social Media* -- Avoid personal connections with families on social media.
- *Gifts & Favors* -- Set policies to avoid ethical dilemmas.

