Example Guidance Policy for Family Child Care Providers

Below is an example of a guidance policy adapted from the Child Care Information Center, State of Wisconsin Departments of Public Instruction and Children & Families. http://ccic.dcf.wi.gov/catalog/358

This verbiage is meant to provide a base from which family child care providers can use to craft their own policies. It is the base policy provided by the State of Wisconsin. You can use this example to help think about your own ideas. What do you like or dislike within this policy based on what you have learned in the VLS thus far? You can also use this example as a guide to start a conversation with your trainer and coach about what to include in your own guidance and touch policy.

VIII. CHILD GUIDANCE: Policy Effective Date: POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE

Children's behavior will be guided by setting clear limits or rules for children. I will talk with children about expected behaviors and model those behaviors consistently for them. I will state positively what children can do, using specific terms (e.g., "you need to walk" rather than "don't run"). Undesirable behavior will be redirected to another activity. Children will be given a wide variety of age-appropriate activities to choose from and will be given the attention they need before they demand it. Behavior management will be for the purpose of helping children develop self-control, self-esteem and respect for the rights of others.

I understand that there will be times when a child will become distraught, fussy or won't quit crying. My first action in these situations will be an attempt to determine the cause of the distress. It may be related to a basic need such as hunger or comfort, or it may be that the child just needs some extra time and attention. I understand that crying is normal, and that all babies will have times when they cannot stop crying. At these times, I will stay calm and will do whatever I can to soothe your child. Sometimes this may mean just allowing the child to cry for a few minutes and then trying again. However, there also may be times when I need your advice or assistance, and I won't hesitate to call you if I feel that it is necessary.