

NECC Youth Program Agreements

The Northeast Community Center (NECC) honors each child's unique development path – a wide range of abilities, learning styles, play preferences, and past experiences. *Our mission is to create an inclusive and engaging space for ALL children—socially, emotionally, and physically. We aim to honor and work with each unique child.* These agreements are designed to provide space for various experiences and provide an atmosphere free of bullying, harassment, discrimination, and violence. These agreements help create a physically and emotionally safe space for participants and staff. The NECC expects families, staff, and participants to uphold these *Youth Programs Agreements* to create a safe space for all while attending our programs:

1. Open communication among families, staff, and program coordinator
 - a. The NECC can best support children when their caregivers provide frequent open communication. The program coordinator will work with families to create child-centered support plans for children who benefit from extra support.
2. Use Positive language and actions
 - a. NECC encourages children to ask for help from adults and take breaks before their behavior escalates. To create a safe space for all, profanity, harassment, threatening language, and physical violence are prohibited.
3. Treat others with inclusivity and respect
 - a. The NECC respects, values, and welcomes diversity in its participants, workforce, and in the community it serves.
 - b. The NECC welcomes inquisitive questions and age-appropriate conversations from young minds.
 - c. Families, staff, and participants are expected to uphold these expectations and follow NECC's non-discrimination policy. More details on NECC's non-discrimination policy can be found on our website:
necommunitycenter.org/mission-values-non-discrimination/
4. If a child behaves in a way that could hurt themselves or others, the program coordinator and staff will take action to prioritize the safety of all children.
 - a. The program coordinator will communicate with parents and guardians about incidents of concern that staff observe involving their children. All paid staff are CPR/First Aid Certified.
 - b. The program coordinator and parent/guardians agree to work together to create strategies to best support their child's social, emotional, and physical needs in a group and individual setting.
 - c. If participants are unwilling/unable to follow these agreements, the NECC is unable to welcome them back to the program.
5. Kids are taught the following agreements posted in Child Watch:
 - a. Listening ears
 - i. I will listen and follow directions
 - b. Helping hands

- i. I will use my hands for helping and not hurting
- c. Calm body and calm voice
 - i. I will take breaks, use walking feet, and speak with an inside voice
- d. Learning mind
 - i. I will learn from my mistakes and help others grow from them
- e. Caring Hearts
 - i. I will use kind words and include others in my fun
- f. Ask adults for help when you have big feelings!

6. What is the most helpful way for your child to calm down when they are feeling upset, frustrated, or angry? How can we best support your child when they having a challenging day?

Participant(s) Name: _____

Parent/Guardian (Printed Name): _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Staff: _____ Date: _____