

Guiding Behaviours in Programs

Children, parents/guardians, and recreation staff share the responsibility of creating and maintaining a positive and inclusive environment. Together, we can support the development of healthy relationships, help facilitate good decision making and achieve positive experiences in a recreational setting for all.

Halifax Parks & Recreation provides age-appropriate activities and equipment in our programs. Our staff are trained in Principles of Healthy Child Development through High Five, a quality standard for children's sport and recreation. In addition, we provide training on behaviour management and de-escalation. We post behaviour guidelines and activity schedules to outline expectations and to keep patrons and/or guardians informed about daily activities. Our facilities provide a safe and organized place for play and exploration.

Program participants are to respect the safety, rights, and property of themselves and others. This includes accepting personal responsibility for their behaviour, respecting the diversity of all participants, and respecting the roles and responsibilities of staff.

Parents/guardians who feel their child may have difficulty meeting these expectations, or that their child may need additional supports to participate in programs, should contact their preferred Community Recreation Centre in advance of a program's start date to explore options for additional supports to ensure a positive recreation experience.

Unacceptable behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- Bullying e.g., teasing, being aggressive towards another
- Significant and frequent disruption to activities and operations
- Vandalism e.g., purposely damaging equipment, supplies, or property
- Verbal abuse e.g., "no one likes you", "you are stupid"
- Physical violence or aggressive behaviour that endangers the safety of themselves or others
- Flight risk e.g., running away from camp activity and from the supervision of leaders
- Behaviour that discriminates based on age, race, gender identity, gender expression, sex, sexual orientation, religion, physical and cognitive abilities, and socio-economic status.

Our Approach to Behaviour Management

Staff will communicate with participants to ensure they understand which behaviours are acceptable. Staff strive to maintain clear behavioural expectations and provide a culture of respect throughout our programs. Staff use their best judgement and work with their supervisors to ensure that all participants are having a positive experience.

Staff are expected to approach each instance of unacceptable behaviour in a fair, equitable and respectful manner, considering the dignity of all individuals involved, the appropriateness for a participant's age and stage of development, and a participant's unique needs or circumstances where the behaviour is determined to be unintentional.

When handling unacceptable behaviour, staff will reflect on the severity of the behaviour, consider the frequency and duration of the behaviour, and implement an individualized approach to consequences. Occurrences will be documented as needed and parents/guardians will be informed in a timely manner to support a positive and collaborative approach to resolving the behaviour concerns.

In instances where unacceptable behaviours cannot be safely mitigated, Halifax Parks & Recreation reserves the right to remove the child/participant from the program or facility at any time.

Please review these behaviour guidelines with child/participant prior to attending our programs. If you have any questions, contact the Community Recreation Coordinator at your preferred Community Recreation Centre.