

# SOUTHWEST HRA HEAD START

**Section:** Early Childhood Development  
**Subject:** Corporal Punishment  
**Revised:** February, 1998; February 2010

---

## **REGULATION REFERENCE:**

ACYF/HS 4.02

45CFR Part1304 (Nov. 1996) Performance Standards 1304.52(h)(1)(iv)

## **POLICY:**

The use of corporal punishment, total or extended isolation as a disciplinary measure, or the verbal threat of such punishments, is **strictly forbidden** in the Head Start Program.

Corporal punishment is defined as the use of physical force as a discipline measure. This includes, but is not limited to, spanking, slapping, pulling of hair, etc.

Isolation refers to separating the child from normal association with classroom activities as a punishment measure.

If it is necessary to isolate a child from group, adult supervision will be maintained and the isolation period will be minimal. Isolation in which the child is left totally unattended is unacceptable. Performance Standards prohibit food deprivation as punishment, thus "time out" at meal time is forbidden.

Inappropriate isolation includes, but is not limited to, retaining the child in the classroom when other children go to play, restricting the child from lunch with his/her classmates, or keeping the child in "time out" for an inappropriate period of time.

The Head Start Performance Standards define goals of increased social competence, establishment of patterns, expectations of success for the child, and the enhancement of dignity and self-worth within the child. The use of corporal punishment and total isolation of the child is not consistent with these Standards and cannot be tolerated in the Head Start Program.

## **PROCEDURES:**

1. Upon employment with the Head Start Program, the employee will read ACYF/HS 4.02 and sign the "Southwest Head Start Corporal Punishment Signature" form.

**Corporal Punishment**  
**Page 2**

2. The "Southwest Head Start Corporal Punishment Signature" form will be filed in each employee's Personnel File.

**Use of corporal punishment, inappropriate or extended isolation by any staff member, or the verbal threat of such punishments, will be grounds for immediate termination of employment.**