



No Isolation

Maple Hall Academy's clinical and philosophical foundations of Attachment Theory and Relationship-based Programming are in direct conflict with any form of isolation or seclusion as a form of discipline. As a trauma-informed care facility, we strongly believe that isolating a child can cause emotional harm and trauma.

We believe that having capable staff working with a student 1:1 without completely isolating a child from the community helps to build trust. We assert that safety, collaboration, relationship, choice, and empowerment are the foundation of healing and change.

If a child becomes violent and is in danger of hurting themselves or others, we are trained in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) developed by Cornell University. Our goal is to de-escalate a situation. In the event we have to go hands-on to keep a child safe, strict protocols are followed including the removal of any audience to decrease shame. We hold a debriefing session with the child after the event to help the child understand that their safety is of utmost importance. If we continually have to use physical Interventions with a child or they cannot be safe in the community, we hold a meeting of our administrative, residential, and clinical staff to evaluate whether or not we are the right facility to treat the child.

At Maple Hall, if a child needs to have a separate place to de-escalate, we place them on a 1:1 with a staff in an area close to the group, like a picnic table, so they can continue to de-escalate, yet still feel part of the community.

Children often advocate for a quiet space to relax. We believe in providing those opportunities through hammocks and other quiet relaxation areas available to all of our students. Our students are always supervised by staff.