

Behavior Support and Management Policy

Kids First of Florida (KFF) prohibits the use of restrictive behavior management interventions (physical) or chemical restraints (medication) by KFF staff and foster parents.

The following strategies are utilized by KFF staff and foster parents to maintain a safe environment and prevent the need for restrictive behavior management interventions:

- a. recognizing aggressive and out-of-control behavior, psychosocial issues, medical conditions, and other contributing factors that may lead to a crisis;
- b. understanding how staff behavior can influence the behavior of children and adults; and
- c. management of age-appropriate, but potentially dangerous behavior, for example, ways to protect a child who runs into the street so as not to harm him/her.

KFF staff and foster parents utilize the following methods for de-escalating volatile situations when they occur:

- a. listening and communication techniques, such as negotiation and mediation;
- b. involving the person in regaining control and encouraging self-calming behaviors;
- c. separation of individuals involved in an altercation;
- d. offering a voluntary escort to guide the person to a safe location;
- e. time out to allow the person to calm down; and
- f. other non-restrictive ways of de-escalating and reducing episodes of aggressive and out-of-control behavior.

If you have any questions regarding KFF's Behavior Support and Management Policy, please contact your Family Services Counselor.