

Frequently Asked Questions

<p style="text-align: center;">Enrollment and Cost- How do I enroll my student? How much does it cost to go to Kids First?</p>

- **How do I schedule a tour to visit Kids First?**
 - A district must consider Kids First as a placement option for your student. If placement is a consideration, the Special Education Department will contact Kids First and set up a visitation with the family or give approval for the family to visit.

- **How do I enroll my child at Kids First?**
 - Student enrollment for the Kids First Program is strictly through the school district that your child attends. The school district, along with the IEP team, makes the determination for outside placement. Once outside placement is determined, the school district will complete the referral packet and start the enrollment process.

- **How do I get a district referral?**
 - You must contact your home district pupil services/special education director to discuss placement possibilities.

- **Does my child have to have an autism diagnosis to attend Kids First? What if my child has low language and social /emotional skills?**
 - Yes, all children attending Kids First **must** have a diagnosis of autism in order to be referred to Kids First through their home school district. Children with low language and/or social emotional skills along with a diagnosis of Autism are welcomed.

- **How much does it cost for my child to go to school at Kids First?**
 - Once a district refers a child to Kids First, tuition is the responsibility of the home district. Parents are not charged tuition.

- **Do you take the Autism Scholarship?**
 - Since Kids First is a Public School, we are not eligible to apply to be service provider for the Autism Scholarship. All children attending Kids First are referred by the district of resident through the IEP process.

- **Can I pay privately for my child to attend Kids First?**
 - Kids First is a public school program, and is not a program that is eligible for private pay enrollment.

General Kids First Questions

- **What grade levels are offered at Kids First:**
 - Kids First program is comprised of three multi-age classrooms
 - Kindergarten through 8th grade
- **What type of staffing is in the classroom?**
 - Each classroom has a certified intervention specialist, paraprofessional(s), along with Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy staff. Classroom staff is determined by the needs of the children in each classroom.
- **What services are offered to the children?**
 - The students attending the Kids First program have a wide array of services available to them and the student's IEP determines which services will be provided.
 - Family Liaison/ Behavioral Specialist
 - Speech Language Therapy
 - Occupational Therapy
 - Physical Therapy
 - Mental Health Counseling
 - School Health Nursing Service
 - Adaptive Physical Education
 - Music Therapy
- **How do you handle behaviors in the classroom?**
 - Kids First utilizes several strategies based on a positive behavioral support model to assist individual and groups of children with effective communication and interaction skills in order to be successful with other peers and adults.

Strategies to use when a problem situation occurs:

- Cueing and redirection through visual, verbal, and nonverbal means
- Calming techniques, such as speaking softly to a child
- Separation from the problem situation, as appropriate to the child , in a "safe space"
- Protecting children from harm to themselves or others

Strategies to use after a problem situation has occurred:

- Praise and recognition for appropriate behavior and problem-solving
- Reinforcing skills acquired during the problem-solving for future use
- Redirection to the previous activity or to another activity

Kids First full Behavior Management Policy is located in our Parent Handbook.

Questions and answers for students enrolled at Kids First?

- **What does a typical day look like?**

- Each classroom has a unique schedule and each student follows individual picture, written or object schedule to meet their needs within the classroom.

Classroom Schedules Include but not limited to:

- Individual instructional time
- Small group activities
- Large group activities
- Individual and group Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy
- Art
- Music Therapy
- Adapted P.E.
- Recess
- Lunch and snack time
- Social skill development
- Social relationships
- Self-regulation
- Skills to meet the learning standards

- **What does the student calendar look like?**

- Kids First school day is 8:45 am – 2:45 pm.

Students in kindergarten through 8th grade attend school Monday- Friday. Kids First observes all major holidays. When there is inclement weather and Copley-Fairlawn City Schools are closed Kids First is closed. **Please click on the School Calendar icon for a complete school calendar.**

- **How will my children get to and from school?**

- Transportation is the responsibility of the home school district.

- **How do I call my child off school?**

If you need to call off your child for any reason, please call the school's main number at 330-926-3930. Please leave your name, your child's name, and the reason for calling your child off.

- **When the weather is bad how do I know that school is cancelled?**

- When there is inclement weather and Copley-Fairlawn City Schools are closed KIDS FIRST is closed. Please listen to area radio and television stations or log onto www.cybersummit.org and look for the school closing icon for the current list of school closings.

- **Can I observe my child once they are enrolled at Kids First?**

- Parents are encouraged to observe their child while at Kids First. We encourage parents to observe at least twice a month. We have separate observation room attached to each classroom.

- **Do you go on Field Trips/ Community Experiences?**
 - Throughout the school year our students participate in community experiences that are designed to help families have positive experiences in a variety of public setting.
- **Do you supply lunch and snack for my child?**
 - All children must bring a packed lunch and drink each day to school. There is NO refrigerator for children to store their lunches.
 - Please check with the student's teacher in regards to snacks during the day.

Extended School Year

- **Do you offer Extended School Year (ESY)? And how do I get my child into the Extended School Year Program?**
 - Yes, we offer ESY at Kids First. ESY services are recommended for students based on the goal and objectives on the student's IEP. ESY is not automatic and is not guaranteed year to year. ESY is considered on a yearly basis of each child.
- **Can my child attend Kids First Extended School Year (ESY) even if they do not attend Kids First during the school year?**
 - Yes, students on the Autism Spectrum who do not attend KDIS FIRST during the school year are eligible, with a district referral, to attend the Kids First ESY program.
- **What is the ESY Calendar look like?**
 - ESY will take place over a five- six week span. The specific dates for upcoming ESY sessions have not been determined.