

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 you 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 separate 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 separate 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
 - Preschool
 - K-3rd Grade
 - 4th -6th Grade
- What type of staffing is in the classroom?
 - Each classroom has a certified teacher, 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 curriculum is used at KIDS FIRST?
 - Following the Ohio Department of Education Standards based on student needs and as outline on their IEP.
 - District Directed Curriculum.
 - Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming Systems– Interactive (AEPSi) is a curriculum-based assessment for all children birth to 6 years. Preschool Only.
 - Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills– Revised (The ABLLS-R) is an assessment, curriculum guide and skills tracking system for children with language delays.
 - Strategies for Teaching Based on Autism Research (STARS) program addresses many of the critical learning needs identified for young children with autism.
- What services are offered to the children?
 - The students attending the KID FIRST program have a wide array of services available to them and the student's IEP determines which services will be provided. We offer School Health Nursing service, Speech, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Adaptive Physical Education. If additional services are determined through the IEP process, we will work with the districts to do so.
- 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. Methods of discipline at KIDS FIRST shall be restricted as outlines in the *Ohio Department of Education Preschool Licensing Rules 3301-37-10*.

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:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual instructional time • Small group activities • Large group activities • Individual and group Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy • Art • Music • Adapted P.E. • Recess | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch and snack time • Social skill development • Social relationships • Symbolic play • Imagination • Self-regulation • Skills to meet the learning standards |
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- What does the student calendar look like?
 - KIDS FIRST school day is 9:00 am – 2:30 pm.
Preschool students attend school Monday through Thursday and every other Friday. Students in kindergarten through 6th 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 to and from KIDS FIRST is an IEP team decision.
- 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.
- Will there be opportunities to volunteer at KIDS FIRST?
 - Yes, each classroom has various opportunities to volunteer. Contact your child's teacher to learn more about the opportunities and to sign up.
- Do you go on Field Trips?
 - 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 a refrigerator for children to store their lunches.
 - Students in K-3 and 4-6 need to bring a snack and drink each day.
 - Preschool students need to supply two snacks and drinks each 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 six week span. Class will convene M-Th from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The specific dates for ESY 2012 have not been determined.