



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
28TH FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON (AFGSC)
ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE SOUTH DAKOTA**

Ellsworth AFB Youth Programs Behavior Management Policy:

The goal of the Ellsworth AFB Youth Programs is to provide a safe and fun place for youth to spend their out of school time. The Youth Program is established as a **non-violence** program to ensure that we are providing a safe environment for all youth who participate in the programs to include the School Age Program, Open Recreation Program, Teen Center, Instructional and Sports Programs. Safe behaviors are required during transitions and transport on the bus/van and during activities within the facility perimeter. We understand that students thrive best when their personal, social and emotional needs are met and where there are clear and developmentally appropriate expectations for their behavior. We believe that everybody has the right to be treated with respect and dignity. The Youth Center behavior expectations are self-respect, and respect of peers, the leaders, and program materials.

The Youth Center follows the Department of the Air Force Child and Youth Programs Positive Guidance and Appropriate Touch Procedures. Positive Guidance helps children learn the expectations for behavior in a variety of settings. It helps children know what it means to be a member of a classroom/program community, learn social rules, manage conflict, and regulate their emotions. It helps children learn from their mistakes and make positive choices. Positive Guidance uses the following strategies:

- Have appropriate expectations for children's behaviors
- Manage space and time
- Create experiences that engage the whole child
- Capitalize on your relationships with children
- Help children express their feelings
- Notice and recognize behaviors you want to see
- Provide short, clear directions to children
- Provide choices
- Redirect children to appropriate behaviors
- Facilitate social problem-solving

To ensure the success of this policy and our non-violence program, the following behaviors (including but not limited to) will not be tolerated. A child/youth's participation will be suspended for the remainder of the day if they present a safety threat:

- Bullying
- Physically harming other youth or staff (Hitting, kicking, pinching, biting, throwing objects to cause harm)
- Fighting
- Verbal threats/ Violent statements
- Anything that causes another person harm
- Problematic sexualized behavior (behavior initiated by youth under the age of 18 that involves using sexual body parts in a manner that is developmentally inappropriate or potentially harmful for the individual impacted by the behavior)

For purposes of the enforcement of this policy we use the following definition of bullying. Bullying is defined as an act of repeated aggressive behavior to intentionally hurt another person, physically or mentally. Acts of bullying may include either physical or emotional actions including non-verbal gestures that intentionally inflict injury or discomfort on another person. Some examples of emotional bullying include but are not limited to threats, insults, constant monitoring, harassing, excluding, excessive jealousy, manipulation, humiliation, intimidation, belittling, and dismissiveness. Some examples of physical bullying include but are not limited to hitting, pinching, kicking, biting, tripping, hair pulling, blocking another from entering or exiting a particular area, damage of property, and stealing. Bullying is an intentional action carried out with violence and intent of harming another child.

When a child/youth exhibits the above behaviors which are consistent and intense, difficult to redirect, not subsiding using positive guidance techniques, interfering with performance or participation of daily routines or activities, Youth Center staff will work with parents, MFLCs, therapists, teachers, youth, KIT (Kids Included Together), etc. to develop a Behavior Support Plan.

If this Behavior Support Management is not successful, further discussions or action will take place for denying care or disenrollment.

We have reviewed and understand the Ellsworth AFB Youth Programs Behavior Management Policy.

Child/Youth's Name: _____

Parent (1) Name: _____

Signature and date: _____

Parent (2) Name: _____

Signature and date: _____

Questions or concerns regarding this policy can be addressed to the Child and Youth Services Flight Chief, Angela Winchester at (605) 385-4330 or the Youth Programs Director, Malia St. Andre at (605) 385-2277.

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Youth Program Director

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ANGELA WINCHESTER, GS-13
Child and Youth Services Flight Chief

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