



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Child and Family Services Division

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About the BIS Program

Behavior Intervention Services (BIS) is a program of the Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) of Arlington County's Department of Human Services (DHS). The staff consists of two behavior specialists and a supervising clinical psychologist. The BIS program provides behavioral consultation services to parents, guardians and teachers experiencing challenging behavior with children. The staff do not work directly with children. BIS staff provide recommendations to caregivers. BIS completes a behavioral assessment based on caregiver input and classroom observation as indicated. All proposed interventions reflect family values and priorities. Physical forms of punishment and other aversive interventions are never recommended.

Although the program can be helpful for individuals of any age who demonstrate challenging, difficult behaviors, priority is given to those who are developmentally or emotionally disabled, including those with intellectual disabilities, serious emotional disturbance, learning disabilities, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, and autism spectrum disorders.

Consultations take place with the parent(s)/guardian/teacher either in the DHS office, at home, or in school. Most consultations take the form of a weekly meeting that will last up to one hour. During consultations, BIS will work together with the parent(s)/guardian/teacher to identify challenging behaviors and develop recommendations that help reduce the frequency of these behaviors and increase desired responses. Recommended approaches may include a daily schedule, effective verbal prompts and differential reinforcement.

BIS is a voluntary program available to Arlington County residents. An application must be completed before services can begin. **There is a \$75 fee charged for up to six months of BIS services.** Payment plans are available. For further information, please call Jake Dziekowicz, program coordinator at 703-887-9158 or program supervisor, Laura Ragins, Psy.D. at 703-228-1592 or E-mail lrugin@arlingtonva.us.