

# Kids In Difficult Situations

KIDS is an intensive home-based social intervention program designed to assist families with their current situation and decrease their chances of becoming involved with Child Protective Services or Juvenile Probation. The program attempts to minimize risk to children and prevent abuse and neglect within families at risk. KIDS relies on a specially trained team of professionals, whose goal is to enhance the family's competence and coping abilities.

KIDS uses an innovative approach that does not require that the family "fit" the system, but rather promotes a system that fits the individual needs of the family.

## The purpose of KIDS

- ♦ To support families in crisis to prevent child abuse and neglect from occurring.
- ♦ To empower families by increasing their knowledge about parenting and nurturing.
- ♦ To aid in the creation of a stable environment to ensure normal emotional and educational development for children.
- ♦ To reduce cases of child abuse and neglect.

## KIDS serving families

- ♦ Families that are in a crisis situation. This could be any situation that might cause a family to act abusive or neglectful.
- ♦ Families in which there has been suspected child abuse or neglect, but not yet substantiated by the Division of Family and Children.
- ♦ Families in need of basic parenting skills including discipline, nutrition, immunizations and other skills necessary for the care of children.
- ♦ Families unable to cope with day-to-day problems.

## The impact of KIDS on families

- ♦ Works intensively in the home with the family for eight to twelve weeks.
- ♦ Provides a therapist who is on call 24-hours a day to provide both counseling and help with practical problems.
- ♦ Assists the family with basic needs: food, clothing, shelter, medical care, job training and education.

- ♦ Offers formal and informal community support networking.
- ♦ Teaches child management, discipline and nurturing techniques.
- ♦ Counsels on budgeting and nutrition.
- ♦ Helps families learn to help themselves and to enhance their own competence.

## KIDS receiving referrals

- ♦ Referrals can be made by mail or telephone from a referral source in the community. A referral source can be the Step Ahead Council, school administrator, juvenile probation officer, social service provider, or anyone concerned about the welfare of children. Services are provided at no cost to the family.

## The needs of KIDS from the family

- ♦ The conviction that you have strengths, potential and the capacity to grow and change.
- ♦ The willingness to work with the KIDS team and to be partners in the process of change.
- ♦ The ability to trust the KIDS team.
- ♦ The commitment to change.

