

Support Staff and Dangerous/Aggressive Student Behaviour

On occasion, support staff may encounter a student who exhibits dangerous/aggressive behaviour. Often such behaviour occurs as a function of frustration or communication caused by a specific disability. Where such behaviours are known and predictable, procedures for responding to the behaviour should be contained in the child's IEP, Safety Plan or Behaviour Plan. It is important that all staff working with this student know and follow these plans to avoid behaviour escalation and possible aggression and violence.

Less often, a child may act aggressively and the behaviour is not predictable. It is important when working with such a child support staff protect themselves while at the same time respecting the safety and rights of the child. **Physical force or restraint should only be used when absolutely necessary to protect the child, or others, from physical danger.** (See Administrative Procedure: Seclusion and Restraint 338)

It is essential to report any aggressive behaviour to the classroom teacher, case manager or principal immediately and ask for assistance in knowing how and to respond. The district provides *Non Violent Crisis Intervention* training regularly throughout the year. This training is extremely valuable and highly recommended training for all support and teaching staff. (See *District Training*)

If you are injured by a student you must complete a *Student Safety Incident or Threat* report document This document is available from your LSS teacher or principal of the school. Other Work Safe BC forms may also need to be completed on the advice of the principal.