

Title of Session: Alt/Correctional Ed Forum: Children At Risk

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Room: Alt/Correctional Ed Forum Group

BjB: here for the Alt/Correctional Ed discussion, James?

JamesCox: yes I used to teach at the county jail

BjB: oh, cool! You should have a lot to share

JamesCox: I hope so we had a lot of visitors to see our program

BjB: good job, Lisse!

LisseW: I'm special

BjB smiles...as are ALL tapped in members, Lisse!

BjB: Welcome to today's Alternative/Correctional Ed Forum

BjB: we usually start all the Tapped In discussions with introductions

BjB: please tell me where you are located and what interests you about the topic

BjB: I'm a communications teacher in a male juvenile correctional facility in Pennsylvania

TerriG: ok, I'm in Laredo, TX and since I am an occupational therapist..I work with special needs people

LisseW: I am an intermediate CDC at Sharpe, and Attend the Literacy Academy with. Dr. Perkins

JamesCox: I am located in San Antonio TX and I taught ged courses to the inmates in the county jail

BjB: thanks for the intros

BjB: Hi, Evelyn. We've just done introductions

EvelynRP: sorry - I'm just listening in if that's ok

BjB: sure, Evelyn

BjB: Lisse, can you explain CDC?

LisseW: CDC is a self-contained class. I have 3-5th grade kids for everything except support classes

BjB: thanks

BjB: are the students special needs?

LisseW: Yes, they are mild mentally retarded, and 2 learning disabled

BjB nods. Then this is definitely a discussion for you!

BjB: ok...let's take a look at how this group can help you

LisseW: I wish more regular Ed. people would come in

JamesCox: I teach 5th grade now reg ed

BjB: above this chat window below the welcome note are Featured Items.

LisseW: How does the different abilities effect your class

BjB: thanks, James. I'm sure that is quite different from your prison GED classes

BjB: different abilities mean that you have to individualize your lessons

BjB: and differentiate them

JamesCox: actually the jail courses ran much smoother believe it or not

LisseW: yes

BjB nods to James.

LisseW: Kids will be kids, no matter the disability

BjB: yes...but we often forget about the kid part!

BjB . o O (and focus on the disability)

LisseW: My class has 13 African American, freelunch kids

JamesCox: the guys treated the classes like a privilege and were very gracious about the opportunity

LisseW: Is it true that the jail system counts the number of kids

BjB: 13 is a pretty big class, Lisse. Do you have an aide?

LisseW: kids failing in 3rd grade to get beds

LisseW: I have one but not very helpful

BjB: I don't think so, Lisse...but you can usually spot the at risk kids by 3rd grade

BjB: so...let's describe how a child is determined at risk

LisseW: I know, unfortunately

BjB: low income?

LisseW: They have little support from home

BjB: single parent home?

TerriG: yes, at times

BjB: a parent in jail?

TerriG: right

LisseW: low income, and single Mothers

JamesCox: I was just informed that if a kid's family has a file at child protective services they are at risk

LisseW: Mothers either depend on grandparents or foster care

BjB: <http://www.atriskeducation.net/>

LisseW: protective services are not a great help

BjB: anyone familiar with NAREN?

TerriG: nope

LisseW: no

JamesCox: not me

BjB: scroll down to Who is At Risk?

JamesCox: There is serious debate over exactly what the term "at-risk" means. Some deny there is need for such a term. The National At-Risk Education Network defines "at-risk" youth as:

JamesCox: * At-risk of dropping out of school;

JamesCox: * At-risk of not succeeding in life due to being raised in unfavorable circumstances.

BjB nods to James

JamesCox: interesting site

TerriG: the numbers are extremely high

BjB nods. Do you think they are unrealistic, Terri?

TerriG: not at all

TerriG: but I would like to know when the surveys were conducted

LisseW: I think it is too high

LisseW: Surveys do not ask the right people.

BjB: are the statistics the result of surveys?

TerriG: I would think they are

TerriG: statistics are numbers

BjB: take a look at this site <http://oops.bizland.com/atriskteague.pdf>

LisseW: Teachers have more to do with the kids than the families in many cases

BjB: read what we know and who is at risk

LisseW: I know that my kids are at risk

EvelynRP: I've got to go - but thanks for letting me sit in. I learned something! bye

BjB waves bye to Evelyn

EvelynRP left the room.

TerriG: many items are so true

BjB: check the warning signs/behaviors

TerriG: yes, agree with those also

BjB: my son in law had one of his 3rd graders making a hit list last week

JamesCox: the list of warning signs is interesting because the guys still had those characteristics in jail

LisseW: I just had to send a kindergarten kid to an emotionally disturbed class

BjB nods to James

BjB: right, Lisse. If we can catch the problems at an early enough age, sometimes that helps

TerriG: the news is constantly showing the high numbers of at-risk kids and behaviors-disruptive

LisseW: We still have 3 more KK in trouble

BjB: but look at all that the schools have to compensate for.

BjB . o O (it's no wonder we often feel overwhelmed...)

BjB: and, as James points out, it's not something that the child will just 'outgrow'

TerriG: that is a terrific site

LisseW: I feel frustrated, and I am trained to deal with at-risk. I can only imagine regular ed.

BjB nods to Lisse. The regular ed teachers aren't prepared to deal with the issues!

BjB: read The Universal Needs of All Children

LisseW: Unfortunately they are getting more at-risk

JamesCox: I have good kids but half are considered at risk according to the district records

TerriG: those needs are universal...needs that everyone needs

BjB: if we can meet the needs of being safe in our classrooms...

BjB: freedom from fear)

BjB: the need for belonging...

TerriG: right

JamesCox: there are an extremely high number of kids that need to be restrained in our school this year

BjB: the need for achievement...

LisseW: Kids are kids, and they can succeed, if we support them to their abilities

BjB agrees with Lisse. James, do you think restraining kids is going to change anything?

LisseW: I have had to do that too

BjB: I teach in a correctional facility and we try very hard to not reach that crisis point where a child must be restrained

LisseW: But they can only deal with their crisis to a point

BjB: but this takes a lot of vigilance on the part of the teaching staff...learning how to recognize problems before they happen

JamesCox: I think it just ensures the safety of the student and other kids close by

BjB: why does a child act out?

TerriG: that's the key...recognizing those target behaviors

BjB: if a child is confronted in front of peers does this defuse the situation?

LisseW: Frustration., lack of communication skills

BjB: yes, Terri and Lisse

TerriG: not at all

LisseW: Defense is a big thing, even in the young

BjB nods

BjB: is there a safe place where a child can go for time out?

TerriG: there should be

LisseW: I have taken kids on a walk around school, guidance office other teachers

BjB: in our classes, a child is asked to go talk to a counselor or staff if a problem is suspected...thus giving the child an opportunity to leave the crisis situation and cool down

TerriG: that's good!

LisseW: That's good

BjB: good, Lisse. If you can leave a classroom to do that, you're fortunate

LisseW: I had an autistic with a one on one, he only liked walking with me

BjB: it's nice when you can build a trusting relationship

TerriG: you must have made a good connection

BjB: if you continue scrolling down on the url we are looking at...

LisseW: Unfortunately he ended up at Youth Villages

BjB: and look at What can be done...

BjB: you'll see that School-wide support is the foundation

JamesCox: before I completed my education I was a teacher assistant for 6 years in a BIP unit and it was so rewarding

LisseW: It helps you understand how to work with kids

BjB: BIP?

TerriG: that's a nice pyramid

TerriG: I agree with the small group sessions

LisseW: Behavior Intervention Plan

BjB: ahhh...thanks

LisseW: Small groups are less threatening

TerriG: exactly

JamesCox: true

BjB: small groups also make it easier for the teacher to individualize

TerriG: yes, and that is very important

LisseW: Definitely

BjB: do any of you use technology to engage your students?

JamesCox: I do

JamesCox: quite a bit

LisseW: I use computers all day

TerriG: yes

BjB: o O (Activities that engage students in authentic, complex tasks within collaborative learning contexts is what the webpage has)

LisseW: I also assign a project for the week that can be done on computer, or by book

BjB: what kinds of activities do you do?

JamesCox: technology engages, is interactive and improves retention

JamesCox: my 5th graders love web scavenger hunts

JamesCox: for science or history

LisseW: What to do in an avalanche, black history questions

BjB: digital storytelling?

JamesCox: yes

BjB: podcasts?

LisseW: Neat, how

BjB: Lisse, there is information about digital storytelling in the Art of Storytelling group

LisseW: Okay

BjB: in this room is a link to Arts Programs for at risk youth
<http://www.artsusa.org/youtharts/index.asp>

BjB: art is a wonderful way to engage at risk kids

TerriG: so true

LisseW: I'll check it out

BjB: this is a very cool storytelling site <http://www.silencespeaks.org/>

BjB: . o O (pretty heart wrenching...so be careful!)

TerriG: wow!!! interesting

LisseW: okay

BjB: here's another site that is inspirational <http://www.createnow.org/>

TerriG: very good!

LisseW: thanks

JamesCox: wow you are a link jackpot

BjB: Create Now uses local producers, musicians, filmmakers to engage the kids in arts activities

TerriG: excellent resources

JamesCox: nice resources

LisseW: Great

BjB: one more <http://youthportraits.org/>

BjB: all these resources are listed under featured items in this room

BjB: if you haven't joined this group, you might want to do that

TerriG: gee! that's something else

LisseW: I will

TerriG: thanks

BjB . o O (sometimes I actually remember to send out reminders of upcoming discussions)

BjB: the next Alt/Correctional ed discussion will be March 15

LisseW: I would like to know when

TerriG: ok, thanks

BjB . o O (usually the third Thursday of the month)

BjB: any questions?

TerriG: no, not now, really like the links

JamesCox: no thanks for the scoop

JamesCox: me too

LisseW: Nope, but thank you for the info, and the insight

BjB: thank you all for joining the discussion! I really appreciate it

TerriG: thanks, bye

LisseW: bye

BjB: thanks, James. I look forward to learning more about your prison teaching experiences

BjB waves goodnight

JamesCox: okay next time thanks bye