

Title of Session: Great Resources for School Counselors - Social Skills

Moderator: Barbara Muller-Ackerman

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BarbaraMu: I really like what the Tucson counselors have put together. they integrate into the literacy block and use literature for their lessons. they have put their curriculum out at <http://instech.tusd.k12.az.us/counseling/elcurriculum.asp>

BarbaraMu: and it might be worthwhile sharing that with the general ed population...suggesting discussion questions they might not have added to their own study of the book

BarbaraMu: Do we want to keep talking more informally?

SusanR: this is excellent

SusanR: I will pass it along

BJB2: I just read on some blog about how children have no social skills...if they have a problem with another student their solution is to tell the teacher and expect the teacher to solve it

BarbaraMu: Great- thanks- think you have a wider audience and it needs to get out

SusanR: I am looking at "A Bad Case of Tattle Tongue

JeffC looked at "It's Hard to be 5"

JeffC: I'm thinking "oh yeah? try being 50!" ;-)

BarbaraMu: social skills - and the lack of them- is a major component of what we teach...and it hooks into character ed...and into small group as well as classroom work

BarbaraMu: and into parenting workshops

BJB2: great getting parents involved

BarbaraMu: also, with the stats on autism spectrum - 1 in 150 kids will be diagnosed with autistic traits, the school is going to need to help in the social skills realm

BarbaraMu: since this is a major deficit in kids on the spectrum, ADD, and those who relate to them

BJB2 nods

BarbaraMu: Dr. Jed Baker, here in NJ, has "written the book" on social skills for aspergers kids but his books are excellent for everyone in a classroom.

BarbaraMu: <http://socialskillstrainingproject.com>

BarbaraMu: the books and manuals section is very good.

BarbaraMu: but I certainly have a lot of resources if we want that as a topic.

BarbaraMu: A lot of the conflict resolution programs being taught in the schools, from Second Step, to Social Problem Solving/Decision Making, teach skills like listening, and following directions, having a conversation, etc

SusanR: I like the first .. these can be used as read alouds too ..integrating with literacy

BarbaraMu: yes- elementary counselors don't sit in their offices doing nothing but counseling. they are out in the classrooms doing lessons in their curriculum....many really good lessons start with a book and work into terrific activities from there

BarbaraMu: another group doing integrating into the literacy block is Project ExSEL (social emotional learning) in NYC

BJB2 . o O (always make the librarian and the school counselor your best friends!)

SusanR: a good book is a stimulus ..especially in the primary grades

BarbaraMu: <http://pd.ilt.columbia.edu/projects/exsel/teachers/index.html>

BarbaraMu: go to the lesson plans section and you will find more of what you saw in the Tucson website. They even video taped a bunch of the lessons so that the counselors and teachers could see what they might look like

BJB2: I LOVE Tops and Bottoms! Very fun book

BarbaraMu: I had a bunch of directions I was going to go in tonight. I was thinking of talking about intervention sites...again, useful for classroom teachers or counselors. This is a very busy site but, at the bottom, are a zillion interventions for issues which arise.

BarbaraMu: <http://www.interventioncentral.org/index.php>

BarbaraMu: The Master Teacher also has a site of interventions at <http://www.disciplinehelp.com/>

BarbaraMu: I think either of these is an interesting backup for teachers and a help to counselors

BarbaraMu: Do you see that these would be of value?

BJB2: do you think that new educators need to learn the difference between classroom management and interventions?

BJB2: . o O (is that even something a new teacher would know how to do?)

BarbaraMu: I think you need effective interventions in order to have good classroom management

BarbaraMu: I would love to think that they had a counselor to go to but, for a quick self study, these aren't bad resources.

SusanR: they go hand in hand

SusanR: Surveys of graduates of education schools and colleges indicate that the #1 area of concern of new teachers is their feelings of inadequacy in managing classrooms.

BarbaraMu: and when counselors are new, if they don't have a mentor, these also serve as a quick resource

BarbaraMu: Think that there is a very wide gap between any inservice training- teacher or counselor- and what you find in the classroom

BarbaraMu: No one really preps you for the depth of issues you will find in an average classroom

BarbaraMu: but this is a much deeper conversation that needs to engage the colleges

BJB2 agrees

BarbaraMu: I appreciate you all being here...but if you need to move on, or have a specific question, I am happy to answer or add resources...sue, would love to collaborate with you if you are putting together character session

BarbaraMu: otherwise, am thinking that we could wrap up....

SusanR: food for thought here

BJB2: wow, what a terrific offer, Barbara!

BarbaraMu: National Character Counts Week next month. Their lesson plan bank is at <http://charactercounts.org/lesson-plans/>

BJB2: Thanks, Barbara. Some great resources

SusanR: Wonderful resources. Enough to last a year

BJB2: I don't have a problem with you wrapping early, Barbara

BarbaraMu: Oh, you're welcome. Sorry I couldn't rally the troops but, as I mentioned, there are a ton of open house/back to school nights this week

BJB2: hope all is well with you and your family

BJB2 nods about busy schedules

BarbaraMu: If you want to see a somewhat typical counseling curriculum, here is Florida's suggestion for their counselors

BarbaraMu: http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/programs/cd_lesson.asp

BarbaraMu: or these lifeskill lessons...think they are valuable to counselor and teacher alike

BarbaraMu: <http://www.workshopsinc.com/manual/TOC.html#Social>

SusanR: we should have all school administrators and counselors here for this session

BJB2: interesting skills...not sure all ADULTS have those skills!

BarbaraMu: I will see you next month....want to feature diversity and the Mix It Up At Lunch program which asks kids to get out of their comfort zones and sit with someone new

BarbaraMu: it comes from Teaching Tolerance and is a wonderful program that can be registered for early

BJB2: excellent! I'll put that on the calendar

BarbaraMu: <http://www.tolerance.org/mix-it-up/downloads>

BarbaraMu: cool

BarbaraMu: g'night all

BarbaraMu: my family is great thanks BJ.

BJB2 waves goodnight

SusanR: Thanks, Barbara

BarbaraMu: Hope everyone is well at Tapped In too