

**Title of Session:** Great Resources for School Counselors

**Moderator:** Barbara Muller-Ackerman

**Title of File:** 20091124counselors

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Room: School Counselors Corner Group

**BJB2:** hi, Jessica! Here for the School Counselor's discussion?

**JessicaMaz:** yes

**BJB2:** great...now all we need is for Barbara to have remembered!

**JessicaMaz:** nice!!

**JessicaMaz:** let's hope right

**BJB2** nods. Are you a counselor, Jessica?

**JessicaMaz:** no, I am a teacher, I am taking a grad school class on Social Issues in Education and we are part of Tapped In

**BJB2** nods. Good choice of topics for social issues

**JessicaMaz:** there was a girl in my class that was supposed to be on here too

**BJB2:** Cybil?

**JessicaMaz:** no Russmea

**BJB2:** ahhh. Russmea attended the K-3 Resources discussion

**JessicaMaz:** but I think Cybil is in my class

**JessicaMaz:** oh

**JessicaMaz:** ok

**JessicaMaz:** I didn't get home in time for that one

**BJB2** understands crazy schedules

**JessicaMaz:** I'm sure

**BJB2:** it's difficult to meet everyone's needs...and work with so many time zones

**JessicaMaz:** you are always in the help desk

**BJB2:** I'm on helpdesk a lot. I love sharing the features of Tapped In

**JessicaMaz:** it's cool and new to me

**JessicaMaz:** I like it

**BJB2:** not everyone likes the text chat. I prefer it

**JessicaMaz:** yeah

**JessicaMaz:** me too

**BJB2:** and I like how people can be relaxed and have decent discussions

**JessicaMaz:** I have wanted to get into the discussions but, once again the schedules

**ChristiGst3** joined the room.

**BJB2** nods. Hi, Christi

**BJB2:** No discussion leader yet, Christi. I'm going to try and fill in for Barbara

**ChristiGst3:** hello

**JessicaMaz:** Christi, are you in my social issues class

**BarbaraMu** joined the room.

**BJB2:** oh, I'm saved!

**ChristiGst3:** no, I am an elem. school counselor

**BarbaraMu:** I am so sorry!

**BJB2** hugs Barbara warmly

**BarbaraMu:** Thank you.

**JessicaMaz:** hi Barbara

**BJB2:** great that you could join us, Christi

**BarbaraMu:** So my text says that Christi is an elem. counselor. And Jessica?

**JessicaMaz:** I am a teacher

**BarbaraMu:** what level?

**JessicaMaz:** I teach k-8 space science

**BarbaraMu:** WOW!

**BJB2 . o O** ( Tapped In membership is free, Christi, and allows you to get a transcript when you log out )

**JessicaMaz:** yeah

**JessicaMaz:** it's fun and crazy

**BJB2:** Barbara, Jessica also is taking a class on social issues...and I thought she made a good choice to participate in your session

**BarbaraMu:** OK- what I had prepped for tonight was actually something different so, if it doesn't fill the bill, we can shift.

**JessicaMaz:** thanks

**BarbaraMu:** I have so many kids on the autism spectrum...

**ChristiGst3:** me too

**BarbaraMu:** and the statistics are so immense...

**BJB2:** before we officially get started...a reminder if you are new to Tapped In to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

**BJB2 . o O** ( you can also select Larger Text )

**BarbaraMu:** in NJ 1:67 boys is being diagnosed as autistic/with autistic trait

**BJB2:** why do you think those stats are increasing so much, Barbara?

**ChristiGst3:** the numbers are scary!

**BarbaraMu:** I think there are huge arguments around that...and a lot of money and celebrity getting behind finding out why

**JessicaMaz:** they are, but in my job, we see all levels of needs

**BarbaraMu:** Autism Speaks is a good site for finding out a lot about that

**BJB2** . o O ( I follow Autism Speaks on Twitter )

**JessicaMaz:** we can get hands on with the students which helps

**BarbaraMu:** I was going to say that the bulk of the kids I see are those diagnosed with ADHD, Aspergers, and Autistic

**BarbaraMu:** it all feels like a huge continuum to me

**JeffC** joined the room.

**BarbaraMu:** and one of the commonalities is the lack of social skills

**BarbaraMu:** Hi Jeff

**JeffC** waves

**BarbaraMu:** For those anywhere on the spectrum, we are talking about real need for self-awareness as well as self-calming, and self-management skills

**BarbaraMu:** and when you look at it that way, who wouldn't benefit?!

**JessicaMaz:** where I work we are looking at making a special needs based lessons for students, especially those in inclusion classrooms

**BarbaraMu:** The need for self regulation in the classroom and outside is really important

**BarbaraMu:** Jessica- what would that look like?

**JessicaMaz:** yes

**JeffC:** I think that to get to that point the students need to become self-motivated and engaged in their own learning. I'm not sure our schools are really engendering that.

**TatyanaC** joined the room.

**BarbaraMu:** I guess on the elementary level, I was going to talk about a specific tool to help kids which is social stories.

**BJB2:** you did it, Tatyana...good job!

**BarbaraMu:** are social stories?

**ChristiGst3:** I need more help in using social stories

**BarbaraMu:** But certainly your question or comment is more far reaching

**BarbaraMu:** Hi Tatyana

**JessicaMaz:** well, I do classes that are geared for space science based on the Ohio Content standards and they are not for students that have special needs, but, I like to do a lot of hands on demonstrations, things they can touch to understand space, we have a computer program that lets us explore the solar system and see all of its parts

**TatyanaC:** Hello Everyone!

**BarbaraMu:** we are talking about lack of social skills, self awareness and self regulation for kids

**JessicaMaz:** I find that visual stimulation is helpful

**JeffC:** I think getting kids engaged with social stories is spot on regarding engaging students... please proceed!

**TatyanaC:** Very important topic. thank you

**JeffC:** @Jessica After this I'd like (at some point) to show you my daughter's classroom here... they created powerpoints on the solar system in 2nd grade.

**BarbaraMu:** Want to respond to Jessica for a minute....most of the kids I am talking about are not auditory learners

**BarbaraMu:** so the fact that you are in a domain which encourages visual and kinesthetic learning is a real plus

**JessicaMaz:** for the younger audience we experiment with colors, we do light and the electromagnetism spectrum, forces, and show objects like magnets and lasers

**BarbaraMu:** if the assessment piece could only catch up

**BarbaraMu:** back to social stories.....

**JessicaMaz:** right

**BarbaraMu:** For kids, for example, with Aspergers...one of the things which happens is that you have the possibility of seeing a lot of meltdowns

**BarbaraMu:** usually when the unexpected happens

**JessicaMaz:** I also see children are not being diagnosed early enough, or families are not

interested in getting the help for their children

**BarbaraMu:** lots of times, the one sided speech and the stuckness within a given subject lends a sense of control

**TatyanaC:** inability to see a point of view of another person

**BarbaraMu:** if they can keep a really tight focus and control the dialogue, they don't have to expand into a place of discomfort

**BarbaraMu:** social stories give a child, or adult with aspergers, a place to practice and preplan

**JessicaMaz:** visualizing the schedule for the day

**JessicaMaz:** keeping things regular

**TatyanaC:** keeping things expected

**JessicaMaz:** right

**BarbaraMu:** One site which was shared recently on the elementary counselors listserv was written for middle and high school students and gives many examples of social stories.

**JessicaMaz:** that's what I mean

**BarbaraMu:** [http://www.speakingofspeech.com/Social\\_Skills\\_Pragmatics.html](http://www.speakingofspeech.com/Social_Skills_Pragmatics.html)

**BarbaraMu:** The list of topics is truly amazing...and important...and in a 6-7 page story, gives the person the information to practice

**BarbaraMu:** Please let me know when you are back

**ChristiGst3:** this is a great site!

**BarbaraMu:** I really can relate to the one about the social kiss. I have so many kids who don't get social cues. They wind up with sexual harassment complaints against them because they really don't get what is ok when they like someone.

**JessicaMaz:** I like it! The preschool area is great

**JessicaMaz:** lesson plans, and activities

**BarbaraMu:** This is far different for these kids than talking to the whole group and thinking they get what is appropriate and can exercise the controls around the issue...

**BarbaraMu:** Here is another one <http://www.freewebs.com/kidscandream/page12.htm>

**JessicaMaz:** great topics on that one

**BarbaraMu:** some repeats but a good compilation of stories

**BarbaraMu:** and one more [http://www.koolkidz.mysite.com/rich\\_text\\_15.html](http://www.koolkidz.mysite.com/rich_text_15.html)

**JeffC:** I'd also like to recommend Tikatok <http://www.tikatok.com> ...you can write books collaboratively there (teachers may create accounts for students etc.). online books are free... vanity press hardcovers run around \$15.

**BarbaraMu:** Thanks Jeff. It's not unusual for a counseling session to involve working at the computer creating these and so having resources is great.

**BarbaraMu:** On this particular site, there is a lot of information, but for our purposes right now, please check out the video of a social story which is a way of making it a lot more tech fun ( and most of these kids are whizzes with computers) [http://www.squidoo.com/social\\_stories](http://www.squidoo.com/social_stories)

**BarbaraMu:** I'm going to just sit back and give everyone some time to play with these. Please let me know when you are back.....

**JeffC:** Tikatok is a great place to make books online. But why stop there? Why not storyboard your social stories at tikatok and then make movies out of them at <http://www.xtranormal.com/> ? kids making movies would be fun for everyone!

**JeffC:** and... oh yeah... work well with audio and visual learners.

**BarbaraMu:** Jeff, think that your ideas are great and appreciate the extra resources. With this population, we just need to guard for too much sensory input...you can see that a lot of the stories use very simple visuals...face reading very hard and much needed skill for this population....

**ChristiGst3:** thank for the sites Barbara! They all look like they have lots of good, useful information!

**BarbaraMu:** but again, when it comes to social skills in general, all our kids can benefit

**JessicaMaz:** this is great

**ChristiGst3:** I am thinking now of a K classroom who has a teacher with poor classroom management. I think these would be very helpful for her

**BarbaraMu:** and the movies could be a fun group experience for classroom lessons that

we do as counselors or in small group counseling

**JessicaMaz:** more info for me to take to work to help students that come to one of my classes

**BarbaraMu:** There were a lot about personal space and that's perfect for the kinders

**ChristiGst3:** Yes!

**BarbaraMu:** we usually have them try to line up actually wearing hula hoops to try to give them a sense of what's okay

**JessicaMaz:** I like that the video showed a lot of great pictures to get the point across.

**ChristiGst3:** I like using the book Personal Space Camp for this too

**JessicaMaz:** I used personal space when I taught kindergarten

**JessicaMaz:** it's hard for the little ones

**JessicaMaz:** I am going to look for that book

**BarbaraMu:** Carol Gray is really the guru of social stories. Her website has both free and for pay areas. There is a description of how to create the stories. this particular area of the website has an example

**BarbaraMu:**

[http://www.thegraycenter.org/store/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&page\\_id=20&CFID=3454450&CFTOKEN=59118825](http://www.thegraycenter.org/store/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&page_id=20&CFID=3454450&CFTOKEN=59118825)

**JeffC:** shortened url of above: <http://snurl.com/graycenter>

**BarbaraMu:** Thanks again

**BarbaraMu:** If this is something that you want to learn more about, there are a couple of good information pieces at <http://www.polyxo.com/socialstories/introduction.html>

**JessicaMaz:** thanks

**BarbaraMu:** and another at

<http://www.autismnetwork.org/modules/social/sstory/index.html>

**BJB2:** There are also Autism resources in the Special Education Forum group room.

**BarbaraMu:** The resources tonight can really take you from the easiest and most basic of stories, tons of stories already online, to some of the very cool tech resources that Jeff

suggested.

**BarbaraMu:** The libraries of books are growing and the autism groups are very good resources at collecting them.

**BarbaraMu:** Thanks for that additional resource BJ!

**JeffC:** <http://snurl.com/polyxo>

**BarbaraMu:** We do so much as counselors connecting literacy with the counseling curriculum in order to teach skills - personal social, career and academic

**JessicaMaz:** my masters will be in literacy

**JeffC:** <http://snurl.com/autismnetwork>

**BarbaraMu:** but the social stories written by kids are incredibly helpful in getting them to navigate, preplan and therefore reduce the anxiety that inhibits their learning

**ChristiGst3:** thank you for all the great resources!

**BarbaraMu:** you are welcome

**JeffC:** Christi... click Actions-- Send to Pasteboard

**JeffC:** you can then copy/paste the transcript of this session into an email to yourself

**JeffC . o O** ( members automatically have transcripts sent upon logout... hint hint! )

**BJB2:** Thanks, Barbara, for leading the discussion. Your next Counselor's discussion will be in January 2010

**JessicaMaz:** thanks for all the great info

**ChristiGst3:** thanks! I tried to save all the sites but this is better. Thanks Barbara!

**BarbaraMu:** Thank you.....and hoping that all of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

**JessicaMaz:** you too

**BarbaraMu:** See you in the New Year!

**BarbaraMu:** Thanks all

**BJB2:** take care and be safe.

**BJB2** waves goodnight

**BarbaraMu:** G'night

**ChristiGst3:** Good Night All