

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

BY YOUTH CREATING CULTURE IN EDUCATION (YCCE)

@ YOUTH IN ACTION

OUR INTRODUCTION

Youth In Action: where youth share their stories, practice leadership and create change in their communities

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YOUR MISSION

Take about 60 seconds to write down answers:

In the afterschool program where you work, what do you want youth to gain?

What is your role in that goal? How do you help them achieve that?

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Distinguish between punitive and restorative justice
- ▶ Understand how to apply restorative practice to after-school programming
- ▶ Understand the impact of restorative justice on the community

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What Is Punitive Justice?

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A practice used by most of our schools and after-school programs, as well as our country's justice system.

Focuses on punishment as a consequence for bad behavior



Punitive Justice (continued)

- ▶ The theory or focus on punishment/consequence as the best response to misconduct, or wrong-doing.
- ▶ Reactive response to misconduct
- ▶ Questions asked during punitive discipline include:
 - ▶ What wrong-doing was done?
 - ▶ Who was involved in altercation, argument, disagreement, etc.?
 - ▶ What is the appropriate punishment?

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What Is Restorative Justice?

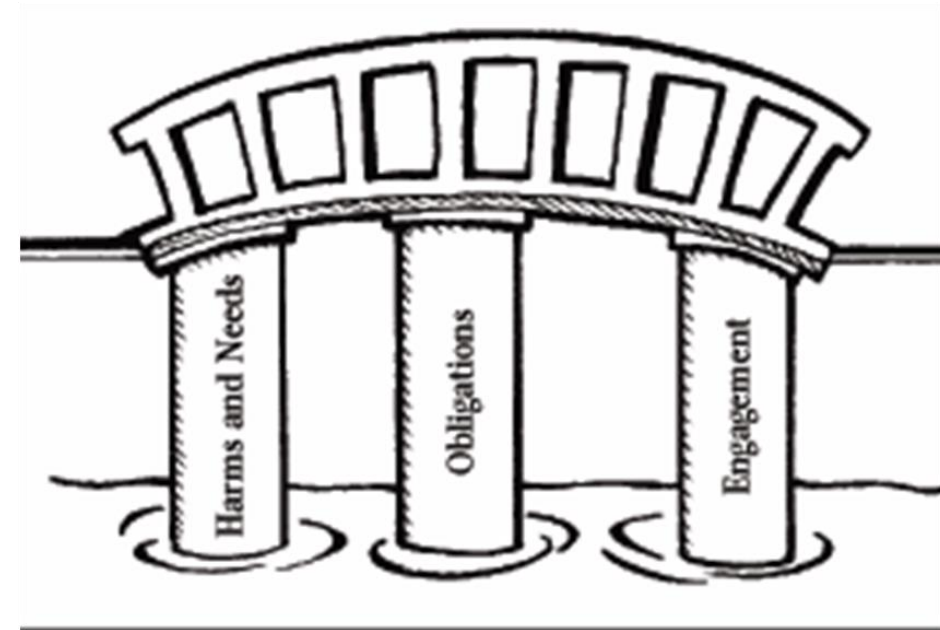
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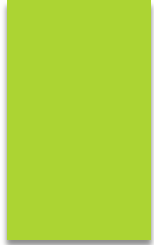
a system of justice that emphasizes repairing harm and restoring wrongdoings

Restorative Justice

Reacts to wrongdoings but asks a different set of questions:

- Who was harmed?
- Why did it happen?
- What are the needs and responsibilities of all affected?
- How do all the affected parties together address needs and repair harm?





Phil pinches Bianca. Bianca complains to her guardian who then tells her to pinch him back.

Elementary School Scenario

Solutions

Punitive Justice Practice

- ▶ Both children get time out
- ▶ Parents get called

Restorative Justice Practice

- ▶ Both children have time to cool down
- ▶ Both children talk to program staff independently about what happened
- ▶ Bianca and Phil talk. Phil tells her he likes her and says he was wrong for pinching. Bianca listens and accepts his apology. She apologizes for pinching back, and knows she was wrong.

Mayte and Avery get into a fight at their after school program. It gets broken up, but later Mayte looks on facebook to see Avery talking smack about her. Mayte responds online. The next day, program staff find out.

Middle School Scenario

Solutions

Punitive Justice Practice

- ▶ Mayte and Avery are not allowed to participate in programming for a week
- ▶ Parents are called

Restorative Justice Practice

- ▶ Program staff give Mayte and Avery a day to decompress and chill
- ▶ Mayte and Avery each talk to program staff
- ▶ Mayte and Avery talk to each other
- ▶ Mayte and Avery have a meeting with their community, including staff, parents and peers

Kevin appears high after school.
Staff suspects he has marijuana
with him.

High School Scenario

Solutions

Punitive Justice Practice

- ▶ Staff goes through Kevin's backpack, and finds marijuana
- ▶ Student is expelled from the program

Restorative Justice Practice

- ▶ Staff talks to Kevin and asks if he can open his backpack
- ▶ Kevin admits that he has marijuana with him
- ▶ Staff confiscate marijuana and talk to him about effects of drug use
- ▶ Kevin takes time to research effects of marijuana, how it impacts him and those around him, especially since he is a role model for others in program
- ▶ Kevin thinks - and writes a letter - to himself about why the reasons he was using marijuana
- ▶ He knows if it happens again, he'll volunteer in program for recovering addicts

Restorative Practice

- Proactive instead of reactive
- Community building methods to prevent wrongdoings

What can Restorative Practice look like after-school?

Restorative circles:

- Process for supporting those in conflict
- Brings together community members

One-on-One dialogue:

- conversation between youth and trusted adult

Use of Behavior Specialists

- program staff focused on community and supporting behavior

Connecting youth to services and supports

In our schools:

- school to prison pipeline
- In RI, according to RI ACLU:
 - 25 school districts in RI disproportionately suspend black students, and 26 school districts disproportionately suspend Hispanic students
 - Black students are suspended more than twice as frequently as expected based on population
 - Hispanic students are suspended more than one and a half as frequently as expected based on population
 - Black elementary students are suspended 3 times as much as expected
 - 60% of suspensions in RI are for low-risk, non-violent behavioral infractions such as in subordination

In our programs and in our communities:

Restorative justice implements positive environment:

- more trust between youth, their peers, and adults
- youth feel like they belong
- youth are valued and safe
- mutual investment between after-school programs and students

Resources

- ▶ <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/restorative-justice-resources-matt-davis>
- ▶ <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/pdo/ppw/SESAP/Documents/SCHOOL%20RJP%20GUIDEBOOK.pdf>
- ▶ <http://www.otlcampaign.org/sites/default/files/restorative-practices-guide.pdf>
- ▶ <http://www.healthiersf.org/RestorativePractices/Resources/documents/SFUSD%20Whole%20School%20Implementation%20Guide%20final.pdf>
- ▶ <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/restorative-justice-tips-for-schools-fania-davis>
- ▶ http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/can_restorative_justice_keep_schools_safe
- ▶ http://umaine.edu/peace/files/2011/01/RSP_Resources_List_Final.pdf
- ▶ Please contact Lindsay with any questions: lindsay@youthinactionri.org