

Lesson #7: Practice Makes Perfect

Lesson Developer: Bev Dekker

Time/Grade: 1 hour lesson/ Grades 2-6

Key Concept: Teach students about the restorative justice approach with a focus on conferencing for dealing with discipline issues.

Objectives: The students will learn about a justice circle by taking part in a role play of a conference. The students will be able to identify the members of a conference and the roles that each play.

Materials:

- ✚ Scenario Handout
- ✚ Crossword Puzzle Handout
- ✚ Crossword Puzzle Key
- ✚ Justice Circle Poster
- ✚ Restorative Justice Conference Process Handout

Introduction: Review what took place in the previous lesson using a sharing circle. Explain that the students will be taking part in another role play. This will involve a process called a Justice Circle which is like a sharing circle but is more organized or structured. The purpose of a Justice Circle is not about finding a quick solution to a problem, but rather it is a place for the “offender” to get support from others which will help him/her to work through their difficulties. A Justice Circle is about solving problems while keeping respect for everyone involved. It is a way to stay away from aggression and find justice. Put up the poster(on overhead or smart board) of what is needed for a Justice Circle to take place and discuss with the students.

A justice circle should have:

- Willing participation of the offender (accused)
- A teacher, administrator, or counselor to act as the facilitator (leader). This person will organize the agenda of the justice circle, lead the discussion, and summarize what has been decided.
- Peers of the student who committed the offence, some chosen for their guidance qualities and others who are close to the student
- Person who the offence was committed against(the victim)
- Volunteers who are interested in helping or who may have some knowledge of the offence
- Confidentiality

Concept Development/Learning Activities:

1. Ask for volunteers from the class or choose a variety of students to play the roles of the offender, victim, peers of the offender and victim, someone to record the proceedings, and any other people you feel are needed.
2. Read the Scenario aloud to the class.
3. Ask the students taking part in the conference to take their places in the circle. The rest of the class will watch the conference but will not take part in it.
4. The teacher should act as the facilitator for the process. Explain to the class that the facilitator’s role is to guide the meeting, keep it controlled, and help everyone involved go through the

hearing process. Throughout the process, explain any words that the students may not understand, making sure to discuss all of the vocabulary that appears in the crossword puzzle.

5. The teacher may choose to go through the hearing process more than once so that all of the students in the class get a chance to take part. The teacher should not hesitate to add roles when appropriate or to make up a new scenario.

Closure/Summary:

1. After the hearing, discuss as a class what occurred and whether or not the outcome would be a positive one? (e.g. Do you think the offender will offend again? How will the victim in the situation feel?)
2. Review the vocabulary learned and the Justice Circle Process.

Assessment:

In pairs, the students complete the crossword puzzle. When each pair finishes, they should find another pair who are done and compare answers. They may change any answers they wish. Discuss as a class when everyone has had a chance to compare with another group.

Curriculum Outcomes Addressed:

Grade 2-6 Health: Outcomes 1 and 2

Wellness Choices: Students will make responsible and informed choices to maintain health and to promote safety for self and others.

Relationship Choices: Students will develop effective interpersonal skills that demonstrate respect in order to establish and maintain healthy interactions.

Supplementary Resources:

- Gauthier, Gene. 1999. *Class Meeting for Safe and Caring Schools*.
- The Society for Safe and Caring Schools and Communities. 2007. *Restorative Justice Community/Classroom Conferencing: A guide for parents and teachers*