

Lesson #8: How The Youth Justice System Helps The Community

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 student will develop an understanding of how a community is affected by what happens to a member of the community.

Materials: Story: It Takes a Village by Jane Cowen-Fletcher can be found online at: <http://en.childrenslibrary.org> (Go to **Read Books, Author & Illustrators List**, and choose **Cowen-Fletcher**)

Chief Seattle's Saying

Human Spider Web Activity

Legend of the Dream Catcher

Directions for Making a Dream Catcher

Dream Catcher Song

Restorative Justice Jeopardy (Powerpoint presentation)

Introduction: Put the saying "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child" on the board.

Ask students what they think this means and record their answers on the board.

Read the story It Takes a Village by Jane Cowen-Fletcher, aloud.

Return to what had been written on the board and add to it or make changes. Try to bring out the idea that bringing up a child is a communal effort. Just as people outside the immediate family, or in the community, are involved in raising a child, they are also affected when something happens to that child.

Concept Development/Learning Activities:

1. Put a copy of Chief Seattle's saying on the overhead or whiteboard and read it aloud.
2. Discuss how this saying is similar to the lesson learned from the book "It Takes a Village".
3. Ask questions like:
 - When a person breaks the law or does something that harms someone in the community, who might be affected?
 - How is using a Circle of Justice for this person better for the community than just paying a fine or even going to jail?
4. Take the students through the Human Spider Web Activity
5. Read: Legend of the Dream Catcher aloud and discuss.

Closure/Summary:

Students make a Dream Catcher of their own.

Sing the Dream Catcher Song.

Assessment: As a class play Restorative Justice Jeopardy. This will serve as a review of the eight lessons in the unit.

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.