

3-2-1 GUEST TEMPLATE

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3 Big Takeaways, New Understandings

1. There are many advantages of using restorative justice rather than punitive measures. The articles mentioned how they had seen a decrease in violence and bad behaviour in schools because of restorative practices. This practice allows students to come to their solution on fixing the issue. The more the practice is used, students become more inclined to take ownership of their actions because these mistakes are not being punished but reflected on, and a solution is created. It encourages students to be more aware of their actions and accountable for them.
2. The article, Restorative Justice: what it is and what it is not; the author talks about how students went to a teacher to call a Restorative Justice Circle on their slavery lesson. The ability of the students to call this circle shows how effective restorative justice practices are. The students developed a trusting relationship with their teacher that allowed them to voice their emotions and discuss how to alter the lesson. If the students could not acknowledge their feelings, it could cause them to act out. To me, this was a powerful demonstration of the effectiveness of restorative justice practices.
3. Raising Responsible and Self Disciplined Kids Restitution touched on the questions we asked children when they make and mistakes, as well as the tone we use. Rather than angrily asking, "why did you do that" you might say calmly, "what happened." My big takeaway from this video was allowing students to make mistakes, acknowledging they could have done worse, but also reflecting on the question of what kind of person do you want to be. I also really like the NBA (need, beliefs, and Anishinabe); it's easy to remember the purpose behind restitution practices.

2 Connections

1. In restorative justice, they mention including the students in developing the rules of the classroom/respect agreements, by allowing them to have input in this decision gives them ownership. Having students participate in classroom rule-making creates accountability for all in the classroom; it also minimizes the challenge of authority as the students generate the rule themselves.

2. Looking back at my school experience, we had many conversations about being kind and the importance of being kind. Kindness was the one thing we as students needed to be, but after reading the article Teaching Kindness isn't Enough made me realize how little I learned about justice. Kindness will not promote change; the teacher should educate their students on how to make an impact. For students to make this impact, their feelings must be validated, and they must understand what is unjust.

1 Question

What would we do if a student is not responding to restorative justice practice? How can we ensure that these students remain in school and are not being punished?