

How to Take Pride in Your Work with Aggressive Children and Youth

Adapted from a presentation by Jon Bell

Always act the way you want your students to behave – modeling speaks louder than words.

Learn how to interpret students non-verbal behaviors – behaviors speak louder than words.

Learn how to talk with students:

- Encourage and enjoy conversations with students;

- Give choices – don't give orders;

- Avoid power struggles.

Learn how to help students cope with anxiety, fears, depression etc. – provide hope, assurance and skills.

Learn how to make and sustain a safe environment:

- Ways to prevent situations from escalating out of control;

- Ways to deal successfully with active states of aggression;

- Ways to secure or remove distracting or unnecessary physical objects.

Learn how to develop control over a wide variety of reinforcers for appropriate behaviors.

Learn how to provide practical, useful and relevant curriculum materials.

Learn how to team teach or collaborate colleagues whenever possible.

Do not compete with students – pick some mutual enemies to fight together.

Sheldon Braaten

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