

PeaceBuilders Program Implementation



case study – child

Bancroft Community School Replaces “Me First” Culture with a Peaceful Way of Life

Problem:

In 2001, the staff at Bancroft Community School in Spring Valley, Calif., was spending every day dealing with one discipline problem after another. The school and its surrounding community were plagued by acts of violence and disrespectful behavior among its youth. According to the school's principal, Dr. Lois DeKock, “There was a pervasive ‘me first’ attitude and test scores were low.”

Solution:

Teachers and staff were trained by PeaceBuilders professionals to change the culture at Bancroft and shift the focus from discipline back to learning. Armed with new communication techniques and classroom activities, teachers set clear expectations for student conduct and followed up with consistent praise for academic achievement and good behavior.

Results:

Dr. DeKock says the changes were immediate. Very soon after teachers began giving praise, the children began giving it back to teachers and to each other. A significant reduction in disciplinary referrals followed along with a marked increase in respectful behavior. Incidents of violence and aggressive behavior have decreased drastically, allowing teachers to focus on teaching—instead of policing—students. As a result, attendance has improved, test scores are higher and overall academic achievement has increased. Teachers say communicating expectations for behavior is much easier using the PeaceBuilders common language. And parents say the children practice PeaceBuilders principles outside the classroom resulting in positive changes at home and in the community, as well.

“I’ve been a school educator for a long time. I’ve been a principal for 17 years at three schools. I’ve used various programs and have never known any that have been as positive or effective as PeaceBuilders.”

results:

- Aggressive and violent behavior drastically reduced.
- Improved test scores and overall academic achievement.
- Disciplinary referrals significantly decreased.
- Marked increase in respectful behavior.
- Attendance up.

About PeaceBuilders:

PeaceBuilders is the science-based, research-validated character education and violence prevention youth program approved for the federally funded Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act. It is a culture/curriculum hybrid program that shifts the entire climate to a peaceful, productive and safe place for children, parents and the community. Our experienced corporate team manages the PeaceBuilders program to work seamlessly with any organization seeking peaceful solutions.

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