

PeaceBuilders Program Implementation



case study – pre-school

Creative Beginnings YMCA Pre-School Decreases Physical and Verbal Violence using PeaceBuilding Strategies

Problem:

In 2006, Creative Beginnings, a YMCA pre-school serving approximately forty 3 to 5 year old children from low-income families in north Long Beach, Calif., was looking for a program to teach character development, pro-social skills, and peaceful conflict resolution to very young children exhibiting unkind, aggressive, even violent behaviors. PeaceBuilders fit the bill. According to Program Director, Karen Benton, "PeaceBuilders gives us a way to incorporate non-violent solutions every day."

Solution:

The staff at Creative Beginnings pre-school was trained by PeaceBuilders professionals to build a culture of peace by establishing a common language and a common identity for everyone at the site. Equipped with activity ideas and easy to use curriculum that aligns with NAEYC, Head Start and ECERS standards, teachers set clear expectations and consistently praised children to encourage more peaceful behavior.

Results:

The children now regularly praise and encourage each other and as a result, violent episodes and name calling have drastically decreased. Using PeaceBuilders language and strategies, children are getting along better with each other and are learning important life skills that will lead to their success in school and other areas. The teachers are seeing the difference: "PeaceBuilders helps with behavior. We say the pledge and it works." "Some parents in our class are using PeaceBuilders at home as a discipline tool."

results:

- 90% decrease in aggressive and violent behavior.
- 70% decrease in name calling.
- 90% increase in incidents of children praising and encouraging each other.
- 85% increase in children solving their own problems.

"PeaceBuilders is a good program for preschool because it helps even small children resolve conflicts in an acceptable way, and it creates a positive environment for everyone."

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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