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SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SCHOOLS

Correlations among Social Justice and Other Developmental and Social Theories

FORMAT:

Lecture and Discussion- Participants are encouraged to make the workshop more relevant to their concerns by asking questions and giving input.

DESCRIPTION:

This is a training to aid participants in integrating the principles of a Social Justice Program (including principles drawn from the “Anti-Bias Curriculum”, Derman-Sparks, NAEYC) with other developmental and social theories. Understanding how such theories cross validate with each other and a Social Justice program allows for a more assertive and effective application of such theories to all areas of educational programs. Participants can better articulate the need for such approaches to skeptical colleagues, administrators, and parents in theoretical terms that are more familiar to them. Participants will gain greater sophistication in theories conducive to Social Justice: self-esteem theory, developmental theory, individual/community dynamics, bully/victim research & theory, attributes of children who thrive, communication theory, and the American Promise. Concrete plans for action will be discussed.

SUMMARY OF CONTENT:

A) Self-Esteem theory (Coopersmith) as it relates to Social Justice

Significance, Moral Virtue, Power and Control, Competence

B) Developmental theory – 10 basic rules of development

C) Individual vs. Community Dynamic of the Education Process

D) Bully/Victim Research & Theory

Definitions, Consequences for Bullies, Consequences for Victims

E) Ten core attributes of children who thrive, Ron Taffel, Ph.D.

Mood Mastery, Respect, Expressiveness, Passion, Peer Smarts, Focus, Body Comfort, Caution, Team Intelligence, Gratitude

F) Communication Theory -- Verbal and Nonverbal Communication

Matching Communication, Mis-matched Communication, Tone, Body Language, Facial Expressions, Action/Behavior, Lack of Action/Behavior

G) Feudalism and the American Promise

Basic human rights of life, security, educational, social, economic, & personal opportunity life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; due process, protection from injustice, & a multitude of other individual rights.

H) Basic Premises of the Anti-Bias Curriculum and a Social Justice Program

Premises, Goals for Children, “The Practice of Freedom,” Approaches, Boundaries, Action