

Academic success

Anti-social behavior linked to school failure - and vice versa

Many students who end up in juvenile justice settings are having problems in school as well. School failure and anti-social behavior are so intertwined, that each is considered a major risk factor for the other. For many youth, successful re-entry into society depends on learning to succeed in school. Thus promoting academic success is an important component of successful, long term preventive-intervention in juvenile justice settings.

Strength-building and problem-solving

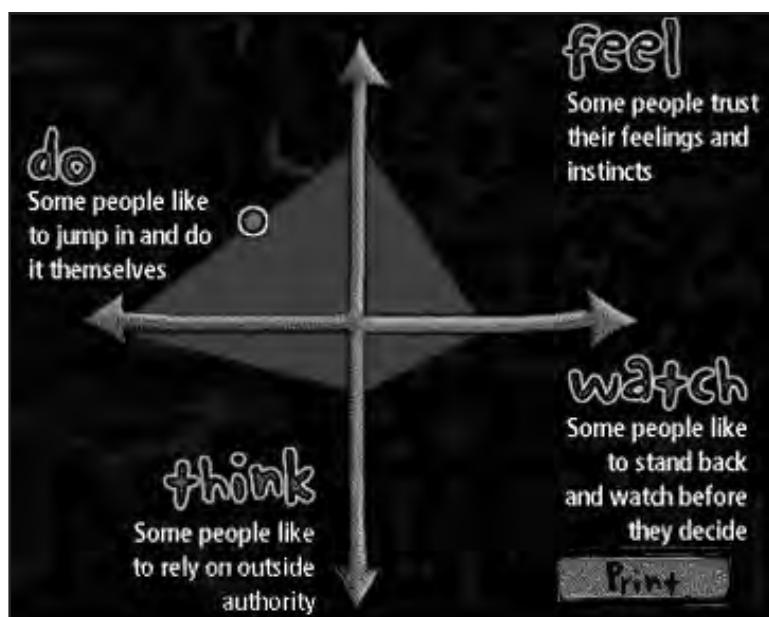
Ripple Effects' program to promote academic success combines strength-based asset development (including mastery of cognitive-behavioral strategies), social skill development, training for focusing attention and development of study habits. It provides specific problem-solving strategies for both academic and social problems.

Targets learning process and three content areas

Ripple Effects targets the process of learning itself, with tutorials on "learning styles," "intelligences," "learning disabilities," attention disorders", "grades" and "testing." In addition, it offers scope and sequences to help meet GED requirements in language arts, social studies and health education.

Eight studies have shown that Ripple Effects software can be an effective tool for raising grades and reducing remedial summer school referrals, without adult mediation of content.

The tutorial on learning style differences has proven to be the most popular one in the program, with students from every demographic group.



Goals of intervention

Youth will:

- Be motivated to perform well in school, both socially and academically
- Understand their learning style and how to use it to their advantage
- Know their personal risk factors and identify resources for addressing them
- Have the skills to constructively handle conflict with teachers
- Have general problem solving skills
- Be able to control their impulses in classroom situations

A suggested scope and sequence

SKILL TRAINING TOPICS	CHALLENGE TOPICS
Knowing yourself	School failure
Goals	
Thoughts	People problems
Feelings	Friends (problems)
Impulses	Bullied
Sensations	Teased
Luck	
Effort	Teacher conflict
	Cheating
Learning	Cutting class
Instructions-following	Picked on (discrimination)
Styles	Talking back
Smarts	Blurtng out
Grades	Making a complaint
Tests	
Study habits	Family (background)
	Parents/drugs
Problem solving	Hard things (trauma)
	Discipline (abuse)
Connecting with others	Embarrassed about family
Honesty	Learning problems
Friends-choosing	Disabilities
Friends-making	Attention problems
Getting help	