

**Title of Session:** Alt/Correctional Education Forum

**Moderator:** BJ Berquist

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**BjB** : let's start with introductions, please. Tell me where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

**BjB** . o O ( and what interests you in this topic...or are you fulfilling a requirement? )

**JenniferB3**: Jennifer UH Student Teacher at South Houston Elem. Teaching 1st grade. Hope to teacher kinder

**JakeA**: Katy, Texas Secondary Science, KISD

**LeslieAW**: I am at Pecan Grove Elementary in Richmond Tx-EC-4

**AndreaLV**: I'm student teaching at pecan grove elementary, Richmond Texas

**TrinhN**: Hi, I'm from Houston, student teaching at Rice School

**LeslieAW**: I want to teach any grade 1-4

**BjB** : I teach in a male juvenile correctional facility in Pennsylvania

**TrinhN**: 4th grade math/science

**AndreaLV**: that's interesting

**TrinhN**: that's awesome Bj

**LeslieAW**: what do you teach specifically

**BjB** : and you will find that after a while you will be able to ID students in kindergarten who will be headed in my direction

**BjB** : I teach communication

**LeslieAW**: I already see a few

**AndreaLV**: wow that's kind of sad to think about

**LeslieAW**: It's sad

**BjB** : a huge percent of my students are special ed

**BjB** : and all are at risk. Do you know how to identify a child who is at risk?

**TrinhN** : not really..

**AndreaLV** : I would imagine to watch their behavior carefully and watch for any unfamiliar changes

**LeslieAW** : I have a student that takes medicine for the emotionally disturbed- it's scary to think what he could do one day if he misses his meds- he's come a long way since the beginning of the year- but it's the meds

**JakeA** : economically disadvantaged, LEP, Bilingual, ever reported to CPS or ever retained in a grade

**BjB** : if you look on the web window that is above this chat or behind it if you have detached....

**BjB** : you'll see a folder for at risk students

**BjB** : when you click on the folder you will see quite a few resources

**AndreaLV** : wow these look helpful

**JenniferB3** : How do you handle parents of those students? My situation isn't as serious, but the parent just doesn't want to believe

**TrinhN** : oh I can see it's under animal assisted therapy

**BjB** : you will find that the parents often have the same problems as the child

**JenniferB3** : I see. That would make sense

**BjB** . o O ( often the problems are hereditary )

**LeslieAW** : makes sense

**BjB** : if the child is experiencing abuse, the parents will deny that

**BjB** . o O ( as will the child )

**BjB** : a two parent home will lessen the risk

**JenniferB3** : The other students seem to know, that that child is "different" and it doesn't

bother them. They usually just ignore.

**JessicaMu:** hey! children at risk need so much support..

**JenniferB3:** But, even the parents don't want to deal

**TrinhN:** I agree Jessica

**LeslieAW:** I agree, so many children have problems bc their parents are split

**BjB:** sometimes the parents are in survival mode as it is...

**JenniferB3:** The mother told me not to call her, to call the counselor because she didn't want to deal with him

**BjB:** working to keep food on the table

**BjB:** and they don't know what to do

**LeslieAW:** so many children have emotional problems bc of what goes on at home

**BjB** nods to Leslie

**TrinhN:** I agree Leslie

**AndreaLV:** yes I can agree with that.

**TrinhN:** one of my students is going through a tough time

**JenniferB3:** I see. I just don't know what to do. He will run out of the room, once the school. Then ten minutes later he acts as if nothing happened.

**JessicaMu:** that is a difficult situation, having the parents on board is crucial to the child's success

**LeslieAW:** Some of mine are too

**BjB:** take a look at the NAREN website

**JenniferB3:** I'll do that.

**TrinhN:** b/c of their parent

**BjB:** <http://www.atriskeducation.net/>

**BjB:** I am currently at a correctional ed conference...

**JessicaMu:** got it..what exactly are we looking for?

**BjB:** one of the speakers talked about risk and resiliency

**BjB:** Jessica, the NAREN site lists risks

**JessicaMu:** I can't believe that the number of teen pregnancy is that high! wow

**BjB:** I've not visited this site yet, but this was included in one of our handouts: <http://resiliencyinc.com>

**TrinhN:** wow.. that is a lot Jessica

**JessicaMu:** Is anyone under 18 considered a child?

**TrinhN:** not me..

**TrinhN:** I'm not ready..

**BjB:** 18 and under is considered a juvenile....

**TrinhN:** yes it is

**BjB:** with special ed, the child can be eligible for services until they are 21

**TrinhN:** that's true.. b/c my older bro was in special ed.

**JenniferB3:** the second website provides information on a lot of trainings.

**TrinhN:** and he graduated w/ me

**JakeA:** Does the 21 age limit apply to all Spec. Ed or just those that are identified MR?

**TrinhN:** at the age of 21

**BjB:** I think it's all special ed

**BjB:** look at the documents at <http://resiliencyinc.com/documents/>

**JakeA:** ok

**JenniferB3:** nice! I think these will be very helpful

**JakeA:** thanks

**AndreaLV:** neat.. thanks

**BjB:** some simple things to remember....

**BjB:** all children want to be successful

**BjB:** all children want to feel respected

**JessicaMu:** I am going to check out the bully article, It is a huge problem in my school!

**LeslieAW:** very helpful

**TrinhN:** I skimmed through the brain based approach, and I like the icebreaker

**JenniferB3:** My problem isn't with bullying. It's specific instances with a student in the class. If he doesn't get his way he'll start stabbing himself with a pencil

**JessicaMu:** Actually the bullying in my classroom is worse for the girls, than the boys. It has been an interesting semester

**TrinhN:** it's good to help student feel comfortable

**JenniferB3:** Or threaten to put a paper clip in the outlet

**AndreaLV:** that can be dangerous for all students

**BjB:** even with a lot of risk factors, if there are enough resiliency factors, the child may overcome the risk factors

**JessicaMu:** Wow. He sounds like he needs some attention or help!

**JenniferB3:** yesterday he was hitting himself in the head with a library book

**AndreaLV:** has he had any counseling?

**JenniferB3:** I'm afraid that he is going to hurt himself and I don't know what to do

**TrinhN:** aww man

**BjB:** wonders that also

**JenniferB3:** He has had counseling. He just switches moods instantly.

**LeslieAW:** what age

**JenniferB3:** One minute fine...next he runs out of the room

**AndreaLV:** are there meds?

**JenniferB3:** 1st grade, retained.

**JessicaMu:** that is what I was wondering...wow only first grade!

**JenniferB3:** sometimes he has meds for ADHD, not sure what exactly

**JakeA:** Sounds like he may be FAS

**BjB:** you need to find out what the triggers are that set him off

**JessicaMu:** what is FAS?

**JenniferB3:** he wants to be on computers

**BjB:** and maybe remove stimulation

**LeslieAW:** Sorry I don't know FAS

**JakeA:** Fetal Alcohol syndrome

**TrinhN:** ohh..

**LeslieAW:** oh

**JessicaMu:** how sad..

**JenniferB3:** He is very aware when someone is upset with him, because he will say it.

**JakeA:** they are usually very explosive and triggers are difficult to identify

**TrinhN** frowns

**BjB:** teachers are not allowed to diagnose

**AndreaLV:** wow I did not realize it could do that much

**TrinhN:** same here...

**BjB:** so be very careful with labeling

**JenniferB3:** Of course...I NEVER try to diagnose him. I just want to do the right thing. TO protect him, the students and myself. (physically and legally!)

**BjB** : try to structure the child's activities so that there is no stimuli

**JakeA**: sometimes parents will admit to FAS and often foster parents know

**BjB** : maintain a routine that is familiar

**BjB** : and try to provide opportunities for success

**JessicaMu**: Did you say that this student is in special ed? or just being retained?

**LeslieAW**: I agree

**BjB** . o O ( I realize these sound like platitudes, but that is about all you can do as a classroom teacher )

**JenniferB3**: no, he was rejected for special ed and retained. he is suppose to be in 2nd

**JenniferB3**: they also said that he will not be retained again because they can't retain him twice

**TrinhN**: aww that is sad..

**AndreaLV**: and how do the other kids feel about him? do they interact with him?

**JessicaMu**: good question!

**JakeA**: I thought that NCLB allowed multiple retentions

**BjB** . o O ( doomed to fall through the cracks of the education system )

**JenniferB3**: The kids are surprisingly great! They do not get disturbed by his actions

**JenniferB3**: They still interact with him....when he has his good moments

**AndreaLV**: are there any that try to calm him or befriend him? maybe he needs some positive relationships

**BjB** : maybe this child needs a safe place to go when he feels impulsive

**JessicaMu**: how do you promote positive interactions for him?

**JenniferB3**: When he has his "episodes" the students back off.

**JenniferB3**: I praise...praise....praise and give him extra computer time when he follows the rules.

**AndreaLV:** that is understandable if I was in his class I may be scared of what was to come

**JenniferB3:** That seems to work for the most part

**AndreaLV:** Have the parents tried to help with the situation? what do they think?

**JenniferB3:** Absolutely not

**JessicaMu:** Can you get him to do any work?

**TrinhN:** praise does help students feel good

**BjB:** unfortunately, you also have the rest of the class to worry about

**JenniferB3:** sometimes he will do his work

**JenniferB3:** this is true Bj.

**JenniferB3:** Are there any other issues that anyone else has?

**BjB:** I would document behaviors and then submit to the principal

**JenniferB3:** documentation is ongoing

**BjB:** . o O ( or the counselor )

**JenniferB3:** with counselor and principal

**TrinhN:** throughout my student teaching, I haven't seen my teacher do any documentation

**BjB:** good.

**JenniferB3:** I don't hesitate now to call the office in a second

**LeslieAW:** As I mentioned earlier, I have a student that takes ED meds-it keeps him calm but we can tell when they mess with his meds

**LeslieAW:** the other kids are good with him-they are going to try to keep this group together

**BjB:** what grade, Leslie?

**LeslieAW:** We praise him a lot and I get him excited to do the work

**LeslieAW:** 2nd

**JakeA:** Is keeping the group together fair to the other students?

**BjB** . o O ( ultimately, you have to make the child accountable for his behavior...can't blame behaviors on drugs. But 2nd grade is pretty young )

**JessicaMu:** I have a student who is medicated for ADD only during school days, and on Mondays she has an extremely hard time concentrating

**LeslieAW:** there were days he came in so dazed and acted weird so we figured they messed with his meds-when we asked him if he took a different pill he said the box was different

**BjB** nods to Jessica and Leslie

**LeslieAW:** Jake-the other kids support and want to help him

**JessicaMu:** Trihn-do you have any students on meds?

**BjB:** you have no control over medication...so what you have to do is focus on an established routine

**TrinhN:** I don't think so Jessica..

**JakeA:** I understand the others like him and want to help, but they are only 2nd graders and that is a big responsibility to put on them

**LeslieAW:** I did get him focused on the lesson bc he did seem to snap out of it

**LeslieAW:** My teacher wants the principal to keep them together

**BjB:** sometimes if you give the child a 'job' to do when they enter the classroom, that helps with the focusing

**JessicaMu:** Trihn - you must be at a really good school!

**BjB** . o O ( and the routine )

**TrinhN:** no I'm not..

**TrinhN:** but thanks for the comment!

**TrinhN:** I tried to be though

**LeslieAW:** I agree with assigning a job

**JakeA:** If I was a parent, I might not like that

**JessicaMu:** have you tried pairing him with a partner to keep him on task?

**TrinhN:** that's true.. I have a student who is usually quiet, but he got a job which is put down the projector screen

**AndreaLV:** Yes I believe giving a student something important to do will keep them on task because they will feel the responsibility

**TrinhN:** everyone in my class has a job in which they like

**BjB:** what kinds of jobs, Trinh?

**LeslieAW:** we have student of the day-each child will have assigned jobs when it is their day

**TrinhN:** such as bathroom monitor, librarian, line leader, messenger. etc

**JessicaMu:** yes, I am curious as well...does bathroom monitors really work?

**JessicaMu:** for what grade?

**TrinhN:** yes it does..

**LeslieAW:** what grade

**BjB:** very important jobs!

**TrinhN:** it keeps the kids in and out the restroom

**TrinhN:** quickly

**TrinhN:** since some students takes forever in the bathroom

**JakeA:** lol..I don't think that would work on the secondary level

**TrinhN:** the bathroom monitor make sure everything goes well

**JessicaMu:** My kids totally abuse the privilege and give their friends extra time to chat!

**TrinhN:** 4th grade

**BjB** chuckles. I agree, Jake

**AndreaLV:** I have a problem with restroom breaks. a lot of my boys take advantage of the time and choose to act up

**LeslieAW:** I believe it Andrea

**TrinhN:** I would just don't let them go..

**AndreaLV:** they wrestle in the restroom

**TrinhN:** I would take my whole class to the restroom

**TrinhN:** well..

**LeslieAW:** and your class is right by the bathroom

**AndreaLV:** yes so it is prime playing room

**JessicaMu:** Andrea- I ask my students if they need to take a break or really go to the bathroom? when they need a break I let [them] get water after their work is done..

**TrinhN:** what you can do is.. don't let the student that wrestle each other go into together at the same time

**TrinhN:** separate them

**AndreaLV:** but they will find a wrestling buddy regardless

**AndreaLV:** its the kid you wouldn't think

**TrinhN:** have him go to the restroom by himself??

**AndreaLV:** there are also other kids from other classrooms that cause problems. our restrooms service the whole second grade

**TrinhN:** you should find a time that other classes doesn't go the same time as your class does

**TrinhN:** you can talk with other teachers to set a time..

**JessicaMu:** We make our students go as a whole class, They all take their work and pencils, and restroom breaks are then productive and quick!

**LeslieAW:** They do work during bathroom break?

**TrinhN:** it is a good idea to have them work during bathroom break that way they can be busy

**BjB** . o O ( I wondered about that too, Leslie )

**TrinhN**: at the same time, they are not wasting time

**AndreaLV**: yes my class has seat work to finish as they take bathroom breaks

**JessicaMu**: yes! usually writing assignment. they sit against the wall with their work, and three kids in the bathroom at a time...works like a well oiled machine!

**BjB** smiles. Sounds good, Jessica

**LeslieAW**: what grade

**TrinhN**: I agree too

**JakeA**: whole new way of thinking of "seat" work

**AndreaLV**: we usually call them to go by table. the restroom is right next to my classroom so it is somewhat of a routine

**LeslieAW**: we call by table too

**TrinhN**: i c..

**LeslieAW**: they work in the classroom while the others go quickly and quietly-I have a good class

**BjB**: sounds like clear expectations and an established routine work well

**LeslieAW**: my SBTE did a good job

**TrinhN**: just as long you have a routine is good..

**TrinhN**: my SBTE too..

**AndreaLV**: yes my students should know to follow the routine by now or my sbte chews into them

**AndreaLV**: but even that doesn't seem to work sometimes

**TrinhN**: Jessica, you had a great comment!

**LeslieAW**: oh yeah

**JessicaMu**: thanks Trinh! wink wink..

**JessicaMu:** Andrea- you let your students go to the bathroom by tables?

**JessicaMu:** sorry just confused?

**BjB:** I think you mentioned in Teachers in Training about the problem of establishing authority in the classroom

**TrinhN:** I think it's better if you go w/ the students to the restroom that way u can monitor them..

**TrinhN:** but it just depends on others..

**JessicaMu:** Yes.. especially for new teachers.. gaining authority is hard enough!

**TrinhN:** yes..

**BjB:** when it's YOUR classroom, you will be better able to establish your expectations

**BjB:** . o O ( always easier to start strict and then relax )

**LeslieAW:** I have learned that!

**JessicaMu:** Bj- how long have you been teaching?

**TrinhN:** thanks for the suggestion..

**AndreaLV:** yes I agree with you because it seems that sometimes me and my sbte are on different pages

**BjB:** this is my 24th year

**JessicaMu:** WOW!

**TrinhN:** wow..

**LeslieAW:** wow

**JessicaMu:** what grades did you teach?

**BjB:** yeah, that's how I feel too!

**TrinhN:** it's always good to start out strict that way the students won't be out of control

**BjB:** the reading levels go from pre K to post high school

**LeslieAW:** true Trinh

**BjB:** the boys are 11 years old to 18

**BjB:** so it's mostly middle/high school

**JakeA:** Is it a residential facility?

**BjB:** yes

**JenniferB3:** I think that staying consistent is key and follow through.

**JenniferB3:** Also. model behavior

**TrinhN:** I agree..

**JessicaMu:** oh..so you are a reading specialist?

**BjB:** no, Jessica. I'm actually an art teacher

**BjB:** but I try to integrate the arts across the curriculum

**JakeA:** My mom is a reading specialist!

**JenniferB3:** interesting

**BjB:** and include writing and reading in my classes

**TrinhN:** cool

**JessicaMu:** I just realized that our school does not offer art class for elementary students!  
how unfortunate for them..

**AndreaLV:** well that is not right

**JenniferB3:** the one thing my student does love is art

**TrinhN:** sorry to hear that..

**JakeA:** In Katy all classes have music and art

**BjB** agrees with Jennifer...so you need to try to use art in your classroom ...

**LeslieAW:** Our school has art only twice every other week

**TrinhN:** I guess you can integrate them in you lesson..

**JakeA:** A lot of students like it when you play music

**JessicaMu:** Yes.. I have incorporated it into many social studies lessons!

**LeslieAW:** Art is integrated everyday

**BjB:** you have to provide ways in which you can provide a variety of disciplines in your class...visual and auditory

**LeslieAW:** they do enjoy music

**AndreaLV:** Yes I found that they enjoy artsy activities the most during lessons

**JenniferB3:** I integrate it everyday....even with their journals.

**AndreaLV:** they take real pride in the work they produce

**TrinhN:** yeah.. my students really enjoy the art activities.. especially right now because they are drawing types of fish tails..

**JenniferB3:** Especially when I display it. I make a big deal about it. that helps

**BjB:** sounds like you're all doing a great job!

**TrinhN:** I hope so :)

**BjB:** using the arts to teach is a K12 requirement...it shouldn't end in elementary school

**BjB:** . o O ( one of the reasons I do the monthly arts and literacy discussions )

**BjB** looks at the clock on the wall

**JenniferB3:** This has been very helpful. I feel confident that my situation is not a lost cause!

**JessicaMu:** I agree... I am going to find out why it is not offered!

**TrinhN:** oh no its time

**BjB:** this has been a brilliant discussion. Thank you all for such enthusiastic participation

**TrinhN:** almost..

**JenniferB3:** Good luck to everyone!

**JenniferB3**: Thank you.

**JessicaMu**: it is...has gone by so fast!

**TrinhN**: thank you Bj

**JakeA**: thanks

**LeslieAW**: thank you

**JessicaMu**: thanks guys =)

**TrinhN**: the resources are helpful

**TrinhN**: thank you for your time!

**AndreaLV**: thanks for the info

**TrinhN**: good night everyone and good luck!!

**AndreaLV**: good night

**LeslieAW**: good night!

**BjB**: remember that graduation doesn't mean you don't need prof. development and collegial support!

**JakeA**: good night

**TrinhN**: bye everyone

**BjB** waves goodnight

**TrinhN**: okie

**AndreaLV**: ok