

Ideas to Implement the Comprehensive Model

A Caring Classroom Community

Morning Meetings (Transition Time)

- Brief (5-30 minutes) formats
- Set positive transition for students into school or a class period
- Build common experience and relationship with students
- Include grade appropriate content --daily weather, news, announcements
- Fresh activity, role-play, guided discovery
- Introduce a topic that will be covered that day

Guidelines for Class Meetings

- Meet once/week at regular time
- Honest/open dialog, focus on solutions, limited time (30 min 3-5 grade, 45 min 6-8 grade)
- Students don't accuse, put-down, or show disrespect to others
- No one solicits others to point out wrong doers Active listening (eyes, polite, hearing other side) and do not interrupt
- Group punishments are not sanctioned
- Use of I voice, "I feel this way when...[don't accuse] classmates tease me." not "Johnny is teasing on the playground."
- Students arranged in a circle
- Students lead (when skilled) to set up agenda
- Teacher final agenda arbitrator, but students could alternately facilitate meeting

Adapted from William Glasser and Rudolf Dreikurs

Collection of "hands for character", presented to Morgan, an elementary student in Westbrook, CT to acknowledge her positive attributes. These hands made up one corner of a bulletin board highlighting good student character which resulted from a class activity. This activity is suggested as an excellent classroom community builder during morning meetings at the start of the school year.

