

Communicator



eNews from The Bitterroot Valley Education Cooperative

December 2, 2004

Co-op News:

Addressing Problem Behaviors....



(Pictured: Tim Lewis consulting with the Darby Elementary School Wide Planning)

The Co-op arranged Tim Lewis at the University of Missouri *Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports* to present to Co-op member School Districts. Teams from Darby, Hamilton, Victor, and Stevensville participated in the training.

Lewis explained why problem behavior is increasing and what we can do about it. Common responses of zero tolerance, suspensions, and expulsions are incomplete and inefficient according to Lewis. He cited studies that show “punishing” problem behaviors, **without proactive support systems**, is associated with increases in aggression, vandalism, truancy and dropping out.

....through School Wide Systems

School wide systems focus on prevention and instruction. Chris Hughes and Carol Ewen, of the Co-op, are helping Co-op member schools assemble the building blocks of universal school wide strategies.



(Pictured: Chris Hughes, Co-op Behavior Consultant confers with the Victor High School Wide Planning Team)

.....of Positive Behavior Supports

Schools with effective discipline work smarter not harder by moving beyond punishment to teaching, rewarding expected behaviors and collecting data to see what is working.



(Pictured: Carol Ewen of the Co-op with the Stevensville Elementary School Wide Planning Team)

Matters of Interest:

"Get Tough" Youth Programs are Ineffective, Panel Says

Boot camps and other get-tough programs for adolescents do not prevent criminal behavior, as intended, and may make the problem even worse, a new study has found. Further, laws transferring juveniles into the adult court system lead these teenagers to commit more violence, the study said. More promising, reports Laura Meckler, are programs that offer intensive counseling for families and young people at risk.

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2004/10/16/get_tough_programs_for_youths_criticized/

Study: Aggressive discipline can backfire

An Australian study of 4,000 students and 600 teachers found that the best-behaved classes had teachers who used positive rewards and inclusive decision-making, rather than yelling and punishment. Researchers warn that difficult students often discern that teachers don't like them, which only leads them to misbehave more. [The Age \(Melbourne, Australia\)](#)

To contribute to a future edition of this newsletter please send an email message to Tricia Leonard at leonardt@stevensville.k12.mt.us