

## **CREATING THE OPTIMAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WITH PEACEBUILDERS [9517]**

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### **Workshop Summary**

PeacePartners Inc.™, the proud facilitator of the PeaceBuilders® program, is dedicated to reaching and teaching adults the art of creating safe, positive environments for all children across North America and U.S. Territories. With our research-based program, we are building peace one partner at a time by providing exceptional products, interactive training and unwavering support.

PeaceBuilders is the renowned violence prevention youth program approved for federal funding under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act. PeaceBuilders is a comprehensive community-based program that is launched in organizations to help make the home, school, and community climate more peaceful, productive and safe for children, parents, staff, and faculty.

Our straightforward and effective program is designed to complement existing programs by identifying specific risk factors and managing them with simple techniques.

In the school setting, PeaceBuilders allows teachers to spend more time teaching and less time disciplining. The program creates a peaceful environment by increasing positive, respectful, thoughtful behavior, while decreasing violence and disruptive behaviors. Through long-term practice, peaceful behavior becomes an integral part of the school's culture.

By addressing risk factors, which predict violence, bullying, and drug and tobacco use, our program improves academic achievement, builds positive social skills, and helps to develop character through easily implemented research-based tools. Participation in PeaceBuilders reduces aggression, promotes language skills, creates inclusion for special needs children, increases parenting skills, and fosters safer communities.

The following are the six core behaviors by which all PeaceBuilders live by:

- Praise People
- Give-up Put Downs
- Seek Wise People
- Notice Hurts
- Right Wrongs
- Help Others

In the community, PeacePartners, Inc., the California-based organization that acquired PeaceBuilders in July 2003 aims to introduce professionals to the PeaceBuilders way of life by sharing activities that build peace at home, at school and in the community. PeacePartners helps adults understand their roles in assisting children in learning to solve conflict in non-violent ways. PeacePartners coaches adults in the PeaceBuilders fine art of modeling the positive and peaceful behaviors they want children to display. Through PeaceBuilders children, youth and adults learn to hold themselves accountable for their actions.

This workshop will enable conference participants to engage in PeaceBuilding activities that are based on the six PeaceBuilders principles. Our goal is to introduce professionals to the PeaceBuilders way of life and to share some of our activities in order to show adults how they can role model peaceful behaviors for children.

We hope participants leave our workshop with a new sense of peacefulness and hope for our children. Also, we hope participants take with them the simple yet effective PeaceBuilding activities which have been proven effective in creating peaceful and safe learning environments.

## **Workshop Activities**

We are providing participants with a handout packet which contains an agenda and the handout for the activities that we will be practicing. The list of the handout pages is below.

## **Resources**

(Handout Packet Items)

1. Welcome
2. Agenda
3. PeaceBuilders Bingo
4. My Vision of Peace
5. I Increase/Decrease peace when I...
6. PeaceBuilders History
7. Benefits of PeaceBuilders
8. PeaceBuilders Pledge
9. PeaceBuilders "Hall of Fame"
10. "Helping vs. Hurting"
11. PeaceBuilders Mindset
12. Notes pages
13. Workshop Evaluation Form

Participants will receive an overview of the PeaceBuilders program and engage in the following five activities that are based on the PeaceBuilders principles.

1. PeaceBuilders Bingo
2. My Vision of Peace
3. I Increase/Decrease peace when...
4. Seeking Wise People—PeaceBuilders Hall of Fame
5. Helping Others—Helping vs. Hurting

## **Assessment**

Participants will be asked to complete the PeacePartners, Inc., PeaceBuilders Workshop Evaluation form. The form can be found at the end of the handout packet.

## **References**

- Embry, D. D. (1997). Does your school have a peaceful environment? Using an audit to create a climate for change and resiliency." *Intervention in School and Clinic* 32: 217-222.
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- Flannery, D. and Singer, M. (1999). *Exposure to violence and victimization at school*. Series on Choices in Preventing Youth Violence (Number 4). New York: Columbia University Teachers College, Institute for Urban and Minority Education.

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