Lessons for Disengaged Youth: A fresh start

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Session Overview

This workshop will explore reasons why learners disengage from classrooms, as well as practical ways to motivate and engage learners.

1. Understanding why students disengage
2. Developing learner resilience
3. Building positive classroom relationships
4. Practical student engagement activities
Why do students disengage?

- Arrive disrupted
- Low self-esteem
- Learnt avoidance strategies
- No connection with the learning material
- No connection with the institute or peers
- Role models
- Non vocational barriers
What does an engaged student look like?

- Confident
- Arrive on time
- Achieve or exceed learning goals
- Participate in classroom activities
- Encourage peers
- Take initiative
- Have a manageable work, study and life balance
ACTION PLAN
What does a resilient learner look like?

• Resilience can have multiple domains
• Optimistic
• Able to successfully adapt
• Have adequate coping skills
• Confident
• Strong self-efficacy
• Flexibility
• Have supportive environments
• Educational aspirations
• Enjoyment of learning
• Strong social networks
Models of Resilience

- The Protective Model (Garmezy; 1984)
- The Challenge Model (Mastne; 1999)
- The Cumulative Model (Luthar & Cicchetti; 2000)
Developing Learner Resilience

- Use student learning styles
- Placing emphasis on the process rather than the answer
- Have a positive learning environment
- Give students an early success
- Give ‘control’ of learning to your student
- Encourage cooperative learning
- Set achievable classroom goals
- Map students goals
ACTION PLAN
Building Positive Classroom Relationships

- Recognition
- Rapport
- Respect
- Relationships
- Responsibility
- Resilience
- Rewards
- Rules
- Rights
- Routines
Scenario #1

Casey is a new student in your class. Casey has moved to your program from interstate and has missed years of education due to poor physical health. Casey is struggling with his classwork and is having difficulty making friends. In your last class with Casey you noticed a change in his behaviour and he was noticeably more withdrawn and has started missing classes.
ACTION PLAN
Practical Student Engagement Activities

- Goal setting
- Linking learning to personal goals
- Positive messages
- Knowing student names
- The number game
- Ice breakers
- Communicating progress
- Personalising learning
You have just taken over a new program from a teacher that has suddenly left your organisation. When you greet your new students for the first time you ask the class to share why they are doing the course. Unfortunately you realise that the majority of your new class don’t really understand what the course is and don’t want to be there. What are some student engagement strategies or activities that you would use with this class?
ACTION PLAN
ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
Fresh Start Overview

• An overview of our operational and practical education model

• Application of the Fresh Start model on a weekly basis
Our YEP Philosophy

• “To enable lifelong learners”

• “We are not an alternative to mainstream education, instead we want to create resilience in our young people and re-ignite their desire to engage in learning”
BoysTown Fresh Start Model

Individual Learning Program Created

FRESH START Group

Internal
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Reading program
- Life skills
- AOD workshops
- Movie making
- Sport / Music
- ABL

External
- Flexi learning arrangement with local school & EQ re-engagement officer
- Part time work
- TAFE
- University
- Any program
BoysTown Fresh Start Model

**TRANSITION Group**

**External**
- Distance Ed
- Flexi learning arrangement with local school
- Part time work
- TAFE
- University
- Any program

**Internal**
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Resume building
- Job search
- Interview skills
- Industry visits
- Work experience
- ABL

Individual Learning Program Created
BoysTown Fresh Start Model

- Referrals
  - YC Intake Officer
    - YC Youth Worker
      - Fresh Start Interview
        - BKS Test
          - Individual Learning
            - Program Created
              - TRANSITION Group
              - FRESH START Group

OUTCOMES
Final Thoughts

The Starfish Story