



Restorative Practices

Skokie School District 73 ½
February 7, 2023

**Restorative Circle: What
are you bringing to the
group tonight?**

Question: What does
a circle represent to
you?



What Restorative Practices Are

- A mindset shift
- A culture
- A philosophy
- A way of being, not just doing
- For *all* stakeholders: students, educators and families
- A collectivist model where everyone has voice and is seen as a valued community member/contributor.



What Restorative Practices are Not

- A curriculum
- An initiative
- Something to “fix” student behavior
- A one and done practice



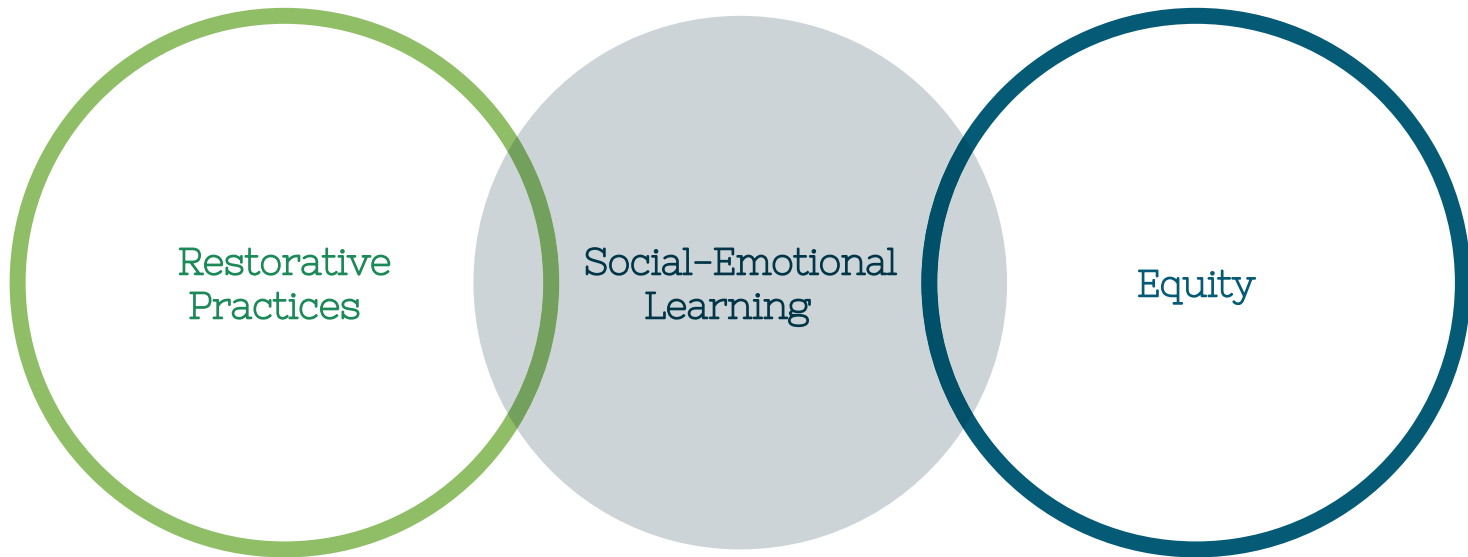
Restorative Practices Principles

1. Acknowledges that relationships are central to building community.
2. Builds systems that address misbehavior and harm in a way that strengthens relationships.
3. Focuses on the harm done rather than only on rule-breaking.
4. Gives voice to the person harmed.
5. Engages in collaborative problem solving.
6. Empowers change and growth.
7. Enhances Responsibility.

Restorative Practices

Call community members in versus pushing them out.

Circles of Learning



The Social Discipline Window



Adapted by Paul McCold and Ted Wachtel

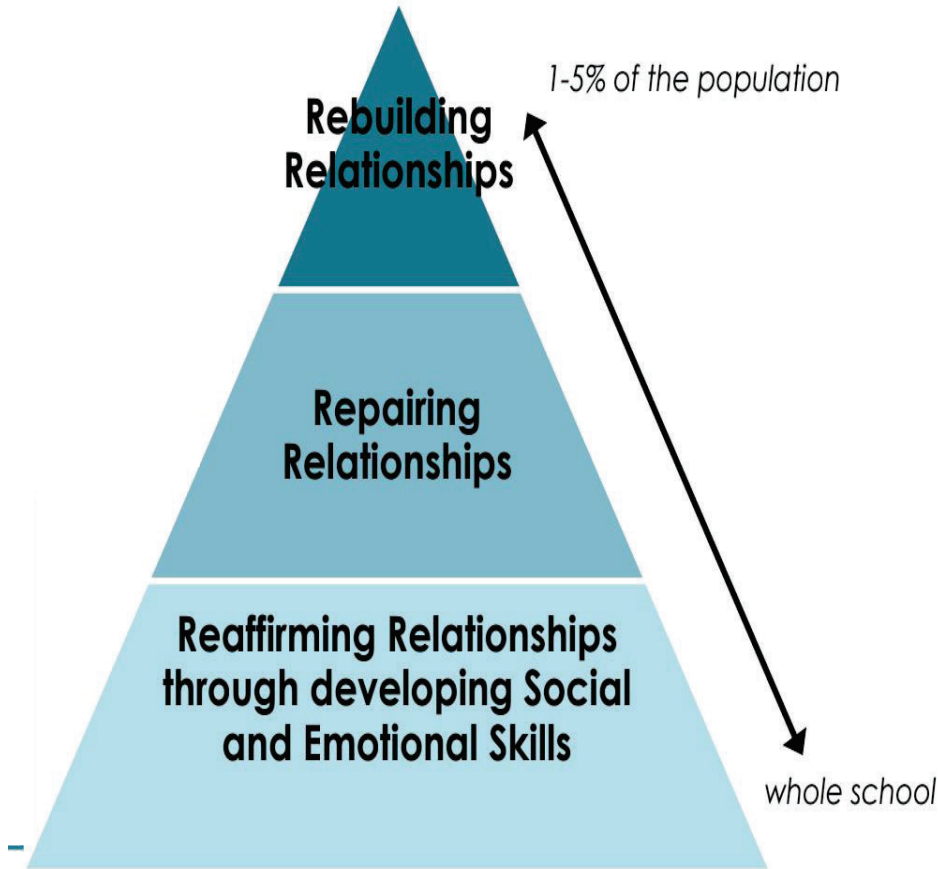
Shame vs Guilt

The language we use is really important.



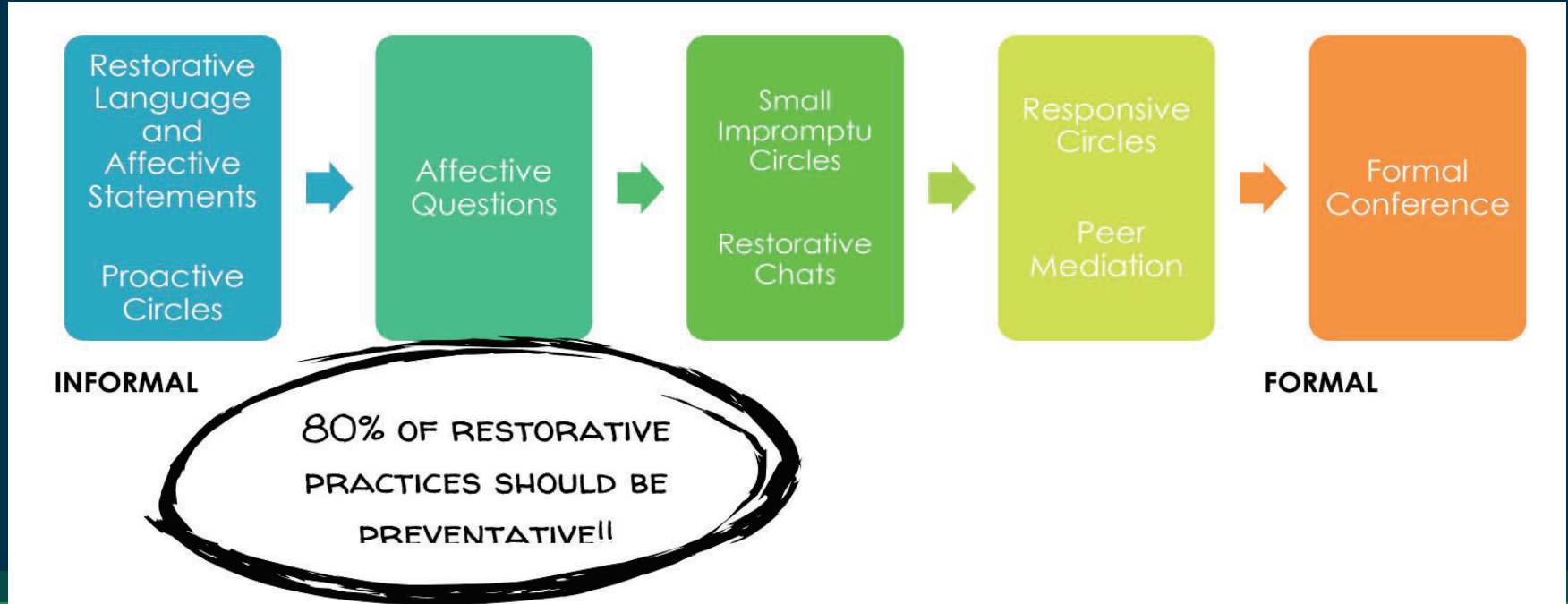
"I am bad"
Self-Focused
Fixed Mindset

"I **did bad"**
Other/Impact
focused
Growth Mindset



Restorative practices move from general instruction and proactive learning to specific intervention

Continuum of Restorative Practices



Affective Statements

Instead of...Be quiet.

Try...It bothered/distracted me when you were talking when I was leading the training. I worked hard on this and think you will really like it when you learn more about it.

Affective Statements

Instead of...Stop teasing him!

Try...It made me uneasy to hear you teasing him. Respect is an important thing to me and to our family. Can you tell me what is going on with you two?

Affective Statements

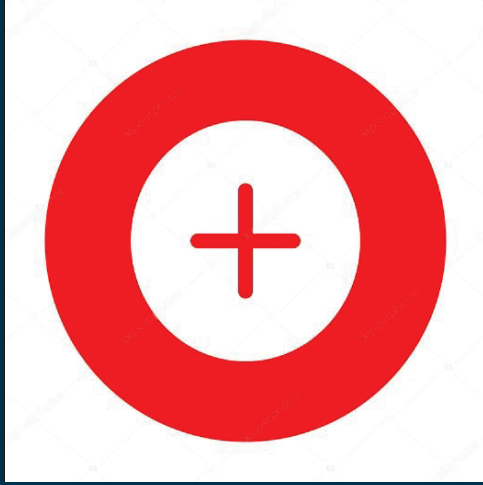
Instead of...Good job.

Try...I am so proud of all of the hard work you put into your project. I hope that you were able to feel a sense of accomplishment when you shared it with your teacher.

Affective Statements

Instead of...Don't touch her.

Try...I feel really uncomfortable when I see you poking your sister in the back seat. I value both of you feeling safe and secure. Would you be willing to talk about what is going on between you two?



PROACTIVE CIRCLES

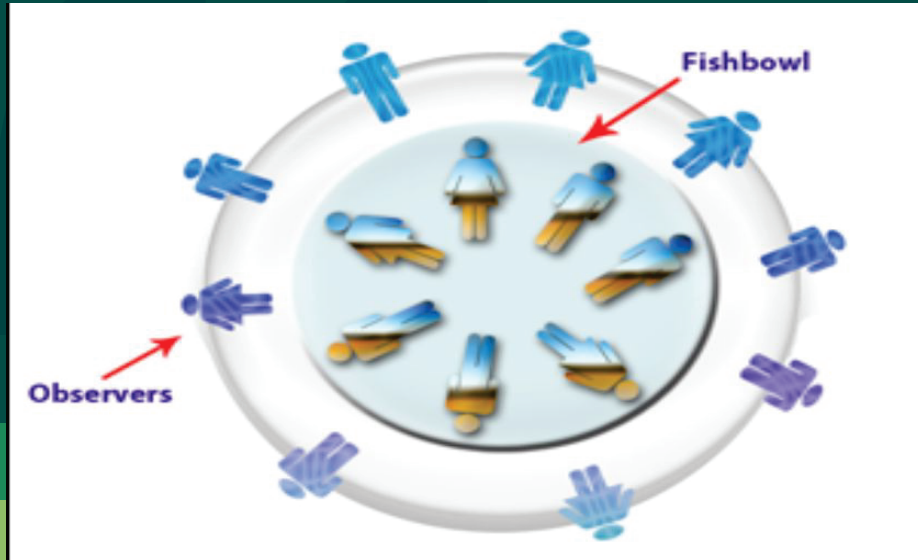
Types of Proactive Circles:

- Check-in, Check-out
- Dialogue circles
- Integrating circles into academic content
- Proactive behavior discussions
- Games
- Transitions (students entering or leaving the school)

I am so proud to see/hear... I am so excited to see/hear...
I am so appreciative of you/your... I am so grateful that/for.....
I am so touched that you... I am worried about/by/to see/to hear
that....
I am concerned about..... I am feeling frustrated about/by that...
I am feeling irritated by..... I am angry about.....
I am so sorry that..... I am upset that ...
I am having a hard time understanding... I am uncomfortable
when I see/hear.....
I feel sad because I heard..... I am uneasy about
I am feeling distracted by.....

Types of circles:

- Sequential
- Popcorn
- Fishbowl





RESTORATIVE CIRCLES

What is a restorative circle?

A restorative circle provides an opportunity to sit down with impacted parties and discuss an incident, behavior, or issue that has occurred.

The restorative circle gives all involved parties...

- a chance to share their perspectives
- how they have been affected
- how others may have been impacted by their actions
- discuss what can be done to repair the harm

...to allow all parties to move forward in a way that everyone feels comfortable and respected.

Why is this important?

- We need to avoid shame and cultivate a growth mindset
- If we're sending students out of the classroom for negative behavior then we are sending the signal that if they act negatively, they get to miss class.
- The student is then learning how he or she can get out of class, not how his or her behavior is impacting the classroom environment.
- Circles allow us to go below the tip of the iceberg and find out what is going on below the surface (i.e. the behavior).

Restorative Conversations



Repairing
harm starts
with a
Restorative
Conversation.

Goals of Restorative Practices that Address Wrongdoing

- Try to foster understanding of the impact of the behavior
- Seek to repair the harm that was done to people and relationships
- Attend to the needs of victims and others in the school
- Avoid imposing intentional pain, embarrassment or discomfort on students
- Actively involve others as much as possible.

The Standard Restorative Questions

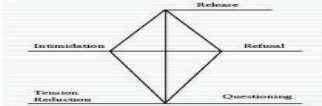
- What happened?
- What were you thinking or feeling at the time?
What have you thought about since?
- Who has been affected by what you have done and in what way?
- What do you think you need to do to make things right?
- What can you do to prevent this from happening again?

In Skokie School District

Strengthening Relationships, Building Community

A continuum of support for students


**Responsive
Classroom**
Spring 2022 & Fall 2022


**De-Escalation
Strategies**
School Year 22-23

**Restorative
Justice**
School Year 2020-Present

← →
Making, developing, &
maintaining relationships

Repairing harm →

Spectrum of Restorative Practices



**ELIZABETH MEYER
SCHOOL**



**JOHN MIDDLETON
ELEMENTARY**



**OLIVER McCRACKEN
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Closing Circle: What is
one take-away you
have from tonight's
presentation?**



Questions?