

Restorative Practices

Restorative Conferences

Reflection Sheet: Family

Use the following to think about and/or discuss the video, "Restorative Conferences."

- 1. Restorative Conference trainer Joseph McCarthy opens by saying, "Listening is an act of love." How do restorative practices support this statement? What does this statement mean to you as a parent?

- 2. Joe says that Restorative Conferences are built on a series of prescribed questions that provide a "template" to help schools address issues between two students, two teachers, two parents, etc. Why is it important to have a defined set of questions when having a restorative conference? Why do you think the same practices used in Restorative Conferences with students are used with adults?

3. One teacher reads a chart aloud:

Restorative Circles	Restorative Conferences
Circles are used in situations of harm doing when there is a less clear cut distinction between those doing the harm and those on the receiving end of the harm.	Conferences are used in situations where there is a clear person or persons who have inflicted the harm and a clear person or persons on the receiving end of the harm.

- What does it mean to have “inflicted harm”?
- What are some examples of situations when “there is a clear person or persons who have inflicted harm” (as well as a clear person or persons on the receiving end of the harm)?
- What are some examples of “a less clear cut distinction”?
- What is your understanding of the ways both of these techniques, circles and conferences, help young people?

4. The teachers identify the goals of Restorative Conferences as being able to identify the actions that caused harm and how “they plan to change that behavior to restore the community.” Why is it important to explain these goals? Are these goals realistic? Why or why not?

5. How would any of the techniques in this video support your own participation in working through a conflict? How do you think this process could help your child?
