



Dissolving Barriers to Learning

Creating insights and ideas for resolving children's learning and behavioural issues

Bath

1st March, 8th June & 15th November 2011: 09.30 - 16.30

'Dissolving Barriers to Learning' is a new resource for schools and parents who need to create coping strategies for children experiencing difficulties at school.

Many children and young people find it difficult to engage with learning, even when trying their best. This in turn affects their behaviour, their desire to go to school and ultimately their attainment. The impact on other students, teachers and parents can be considerable.

Developed as part of the Department of Education's 'Next Practice' initiative, 'Dissolving Barriers to Learning' (DBL) is a new resource for schools and parents who need to create coping strategies for children experiencing difficulties at school. The one-day workshops use a systemic approach to create a clear and concise picture of each child's situation in its wider context.

Benefits

The approach helps parents and teachers to:

- develop a shared understanding of the nature and causes of the issues that are affecting the child's engagement with learning
- provide an inclusive, non-judgemental frame that supports the development of fresh ideas on how to move forward

How it works

The workshop is the middle step of a three-part process which begins with a discussion usually between the teacher or behaviour support specialist in the school and the parents of the child who is struggling. Ideally together, but sometimes on their own, they bring their issue to a DBL workshop where it is explored through conversation and a mapping technique called 'constellations'. The child doesn't usually attend, though older students (15 years +) can bring their own issue for consideration.

Up to four issues can be explored during a workshop. The day provides insights and ideas to form the basis of parents and teachers creating action plans to help deal with pupils' barriers to learning. Parents and teachers work in a holding circle with the facilitator and people who simply want to know more about the approach. They are welcome to join the workshop to act as a valuable 'resource' to people actively working with an issue.

Facilitators

The workshops are facilitated by **Judith Hemming**, a UKCP registered therapist and counsellor, who has taught in primary, secondary and teacher training settings. She has pioneered systemic approaches in the UK and internationally for over 15 years. She is supported by **Jane James**, a programme leader of **ecl**, educational consultant, ex-teacher, school governor – and mother of four now grown up children. Her work involves developing innovative ideas to improve the quality of education in primary and secondary schools here in the UK and abroad.

Booking a place and further information

Issue-holders: **£130 + VAT** (parents/carers and teachers etc count as one – the fee is often shared between the school and the parents/carers). People attending as a 'resource': **£55 + VAT**.

To discuss or book a place contact **Jane James** on 077 34 05 49 34 or email her at jane.james@nowhere-ecl.org. For further information about **ecl** please visit our website www.nowhere-ecl.org.

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