

Topic No. 4:

**Brief coverage of related processes (e.g. Circle process); Circle Up/Role Play:
Driven to Distraction – ADHD Administrator/Teacher/Parent/Observer
Dialogue Simulation, Process and Skill Development (40 minutes)**

Role-play – The Power of Dialogue Fact Sheet

Parties to Dispute

- Mother or father of middle school student - Pat O'Donnell
- Middle school teacher - Jack/Jacqueline Aroe,
- Principal - August West

Dialogue Background Information

This is a Principal/Teacher/Parent Empowerment Conference. The dispute is between the parent of a middle school student and the child's teacher. The principal is sensitive to the challenges of managing a classroom with an AD/HD child that is not on medication or receiving supportive therapy. She/He persuaded the parent and Mr./Ms. Aroe to take part in a dialogue.

Principal August West is known in the community for his successes with other students involving difficult behaviors. He is committed that all children are diagnosed correctly. To this end, he meets regular with the school district legal staff to ensure compliance with the No Child Left Behind, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504. He knows that if this dispute is not resolved at the meeting the situation will escalate costing time, energy, and district resources. West is generous, spiritual, and hopeful as he starts the discussion.

Case Overview

Sunashanna, Jr. (Sunshine) is an eighth grade student at Clampette J. Jed Memorial High School on Friday, February 24, 2006. This is the third conference in two weeks between these parties. The prior meetings were conducted as disciplinary hearings.

West has decided to conduct the conference as a dialogue using circle processes after attending a CRETE dialogue training at Temple University. West has broad discretion how to conduct the dialogue and is limited only by his/her own creativity.

Mr./Ms. Aroe has noticed that Sunshine makes careless mistakes. He has been observed to be always fidgeting and acts like he is driven by a motor. He has great difficulty staying focused on homework or other tasks. He rarely finishes an activity before moving to the next activity. Even when spoken to directly, Sunshine seems not to be paying attention. The smallest distraction throws him off task. He frequently loses things like homework and personal belongings. He tries to avoid activities that require sustained concentration and much mental effort. He often interferes in the classroom because s/he has difficulty engaging in quiet activities without disturbing others. In class, Sunshine blurts out answers to questions before they are fully asked.

Parties General Information

Tennessee J. Jed Memorial High School is in a blue-collar township of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The township suffers from high unemployment, expanding welfare rolls, rising crime, declining wage growth and industry migration. The area is poised for an economic comeback; however, keeping people through quality education of the children of the township is essential to the recovery of the Township. The Board of Education has issued a directive that it is "watching" the administration and teacher conduct in the face of these problems.