

CI3T Middle School Social Skills Curriculum

My name is Laura Hockman _____ school this is the first year that we have implemented CI3T and we've also started rolling out the new social skills curriculum connect with kids. At the six grade level which is where I work, we had a lot of successes we found that with this curriculum it is really accessible for the students particularly starting each lesson with the videos allows each of the students to actively participate without having to speak up first. For many of our students they struggle kind of being with you know the first one to say something of the first one to step out and say they say anything to the class in front of their peers particularly with a challenging topic. So with the videos kind of as a guiding starting point. Many of our students feel much more comfortable after watching that as they are participating already as a group we also really enjoyed a lot of the activities that have gotten anything you could probably would love to have more time to really dig a little bit deeper often. We're talking right up to the bell and students are so engaged at that point they are caught off guard and the time really does fly by. Even yesterday's activity that we did even before we got started we kind of talked about what the video was going to be about and with this one it was specifically talking about students having convictions about specific things they strongly believe in. The topic at hand was smoking which for some of our students it could be fifty-fifty. Either they have no exposure or peer pressure to it or they've experienced a lot and several of our students jumped right on "we've already talked about this and we already learned about this in our life skills classes. They were so" excited to kind of have a leg up those students who haven't had that class yet will have a third or fourth quarter. I think they'll feel even more comfortable participating in that conversation and being able to engage with it. We've watched several videos so far with bullying and it's something that they hear, they learn about every year. So definitely a frequent theme I think with the social skills curriculum I ended up co teaching that lesson with another teacher and we really pushed the students to go further than kind of that surface area what would you do as the bystanders. I would say stop bullying me know kind of pushing them to know what would you really say so the students work in small groups and collaborate to come up with what are some realistic responses that they could actually say in a situation even sometimes by not saying something you know how can they remove themselves or their friends in that situation too. So I think that was really helpful for them and gave them more language more experience when they have those sessions with the counselors in other classes. Currently at _____, we got sixth, seventh and eighth grade. As a sixth grade teacher the work their first kind of seeing it's the first time out students may have been exposed to this since they may not have had it previously. So the way it's supposed to work to is some of the lessons have similar themes, similar topics but just kind of building upon them and taking it a little bit deeper each year. So students in seventh and eighth grade will not be seeing the same videos but will be building upon the same social skills that they learned in sixth grade. So for each grade level there's choices to choose from as far as what lessons you want to choose but it also preserves specific videos for sixth grade, seventh grade, and for eighth grade respectively. So that way there isn't any double up on that. It makes it a little bit easier too for teachers when they're going through selecting the order what they want to teach things in and how to teach it. The teachers of really appreciate it as a PDF document that kind of outlines you know with a brief subtopic of this is what lessons about here is the link as soon as you click on that lead you directly to it. So I think it really helps us continue to go and secrets and not successfully predict and also the team of six grade each of us have kind of taken on a.... We volunteer weekly too print out either the lesson plans or to make handouts for the rest of the teachers. So that the responsibilities is not always on us because many of the teachers

prefer also to have either hard copies or specific handouts to go along with it. I really feel like this year it's a little more authentic as far as I enjoyed using lessons that we've done in the past but I really do feel like with the videos, the students being able to view, see and kind of hear a little bit of information and there's kind of a breakout session. Modelling with the students. I know for some teachers were kind of hesitant with those because they were high school students discussing those issues and concepts but the more we kind of went through it and I watched my students they're more likely to listen to high school age students and even maybe someone who is their same age. So, I've actually found that has been a really valuable to have them listen and first watching model conversation about the social skills with high school students who even though it's not someone personally that they know they might look up to. Although, I think it would be a great opportunity if you know our two high schools in Lawrence if their students could kind of create their own videos we can train sixth grade because it makes it just that much more personal.