

## Academic success

### Anti-social behavior linked to school failure - and vice versa

Many students who end up in juvenile justice settings are having problems in school as well. School failure and anti-social behavior are so intertwined, that each is considered a major risk factor for the other. For many youth, successful re-entry into society depends on learning to succeed in school. Thus promoting academic success is an important component of successful, long term preventive-intervention in juvenile justice settings.

### Strength-building and problem-solving

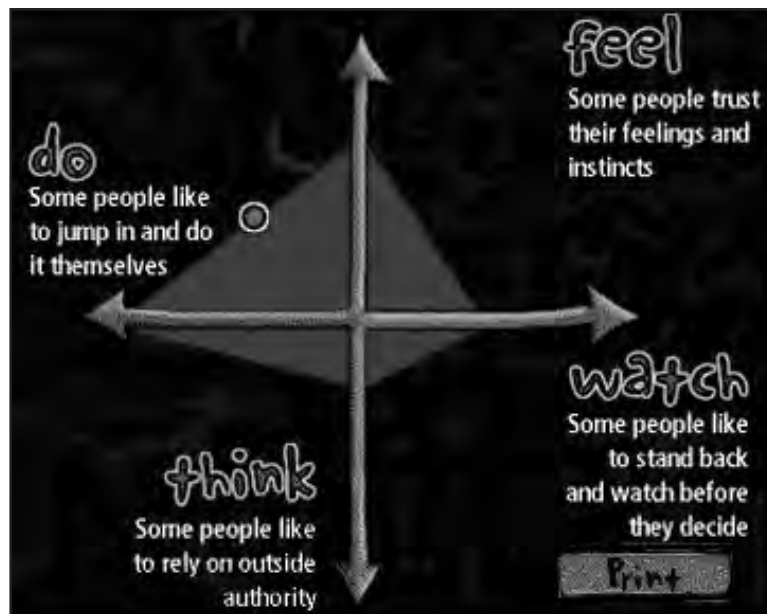
Ripple Effects' program to promote academic success combines strength-based asset development (including mastery of cognitive-behavioral strategies), social skill development, training for focusing attention and development of study habits. It provides specific problem-solving strategies for both academic and social problems.

### Targets learning process and three content areas

Ripple Effects targets the process of learning itself, with tutorials on "learning styles," "intelligences," "learning disabilities," attention disorders", "grades" and "testing." In addition, it offers scope and sequences to help meet GED requirements in language arts, social studies and health education.

*Eight studies have shown that Ripple Effects software can be an effective tool for raising grades and reducing remedial summer school referrals, without adult mediation of content.*

The tutorial on learning style differences has proven to be the most popular one in the program, with students from every demographic group.



## Goals of intervention

### Youth will:

- Be motivated to perform well in school, both socially and academically
- Understand their learning style and how to use it to their advantage
- Know their personal risk factors and identify resources for addressing them
- Have the skills to constructively handle conflict with teachers
- Have general problem solving skills
- Be able to control their impulses in classroom situations

## A suggested scope and sequence

### SKILL TRAINING TOPICS

#### Knowing yourself

Goals  
Thoughts  
**Feelings**  
**Impulses**  
Sensations  
Luck  
Effort

#### Learning

Instructions-following  
Styles  
Smarts  
Grades  
Tests  
Study habits

#### Problem solving

#### Connecting with others

Honesty  
Friends-choosing  
Friends-making  
Getting help

### CHALLENGE TOPICS

#### School failure

##### People problems

**Friends (problems)**  
Bullied  
Teased

##### **Teacher conflict**

Cheating  
Cutting class  
Picked on (discrimination)  
Talking back  
Blurting out  
Making a complaint

##### **Family (background)**

Parents/drugs  
Hard things (trauma)  
Discipline (abuse)  
Embarrassed about family  
Learning problems  
Disabilities  
Attention problems

##### Other problems

Attention problems  
Cutting class  
Dropping out  
English language learner  
Failing  
Grades  
Late  
Learning problems  
School-hate it  
Sleepy  
Special ed  
Success-phobia  
Suspended  
Tests