

Career preparation

Description

The skills that young people will need as they become part of the 21st century workforce are often not the same ones that serve them best in traditional school settings. Since many, if not most, youth who end up in contact with with juvenile justice are having problems in traditional school, this can actually be an opportunity for them.

Three skill sets needed; all directly addressed in Ripple Effects

Industry leaders have identified two major, non-academic skill sets that they think increasingly will separate those who thrive from those who fail in the complex work environments of the 21st century. They are: Learning and Innovation skills and Life and Career skills. In addition they have identified technical skill sets related to Information Media and Technology as increasingly important.

Learning and innovation

Learning and innovation skills include:

- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Communication and Collaboration

Ripple Effects software addresses all three of these skill sets. Creativity is explicitly addressed in a tutorial that includes an interactive self-profile. The entire, software-based program is based on a real world, problem solving model. Problem-solving, communication and collaboration skills are all components of the “Seven Keys” that not only can reduce risk of delinquency, but can increase chances of life success.

Life and career skills

The 21st century service-based economy, requires far more “people skills” than the manufacturing economies of the past. Industry leaders have specifically identified these desired outcomes for a successful career preparation program.

- Flexibility and Adaptability
- Initiative and Self-Direction
- Social and Cross-Cultural Skills
- Productivity and Accountability
- Leadership and Responsibility

Ripple Effects’ program includes tutorials to meet each of these objectives.

Goals of intervention

Youth will:

- Understand how to leverage their learning style
- Think critically and creatively
- Understand and skillfully employ verbal and non-verbal communication
- Apply their critical thinking skills to technology and media
- Internalize personal qualities of flexibility, initiative, accountability, leadership and responsibility

A suggested scope and sequence

SKILL TOPICS

Learning and Innovation skills

Learning

Creativity
Temperament
Strengths & Weaknesses

Problem solving

Brainstorming options
Evaluating alternatives

Journal writing/critical thinking exercises in each tutorial

Information Media and

Technology Skills

Television
Video Games

(Separate Media analysis exercise is part of each tutorial for every topic)

Life and Career Skills

Change (Flexibility)
Resilience (Adaptability)
Goal setting (Initiative & Self-Direction)

Performance
Effort (productivity)
Leadership
Responsibility

Social and Cross-Cultural Skills

Communication skills

Introducing yourself
Participating in discussions
Asking for help
Giving help
Making a complaint
Expressing feelings

Group skills

Resolving conflict
Perspective taking
Appreciating diversity

Social values

Reliability
Respect
Responsibility

CHALLENGE TOPICS

Job

Authority
Criticism
Future not there
Late
Mistakes
Money
Success phobia
Tardiness