

New SENCO Training

Session 4 - Thursday 12th January 2023
Parental Partnership

Dover District **STLS**
Specialist Teaching & Learning Service

Activity



"Parental engagement is a powerful lever for raising achievement in schools. When parents and teachers work together to improve learning, the gains in achievement are significant. "*Do Parents Know they Matter (Harris & Goodall / University of Warwick 2007).*"

Objective



By the end of this session, you will...

- have reflected on current practice within your school
- planned ways of increasing parental engagement.
- Have clear ideas of how to have difficult conversations

Maria's presentation

Parent Involvement

*The Foundation for
Student Success*

PARENTS

+ TEACHERS

SUCCESSFUL KIDS



*Gallatin Co.
School Dist.*

Additional ideas (from secondary colleague)

SEN awareness day (HI, VI, Autism, dyslexia, physical impairment, Irlens, Young carers, EAL, SALT)

SEN parents forum - write policy together in parent friendly way

Parents to understand the difference between primary and secondary - more email and phone/less f2f

Survey monkeys

SGO's and adopted pupil parent groups

'Coffee, cake and moan' meetings (counsellor, attachment specialist and youth tutor)

Provision maps (online tool)

How to have difficult conversations

What difficult conversations
do we have in our roles?

Who do we have them with?

Things that work well

What not to do

'Structured conversations' to engage parents (headteacher-update.com)

Achievement for All: Introduction to Structured Conversations on Vimeo <https://vimeo.com/46863811>

Termly

45 minutes

Pupils on SEN register

Instead of parent evening

No. 36: Structured conversations - Support for schools and settings (devon.gov.uk)

The Structured Conversation - Handbook to support training (ioe.ac.uk)

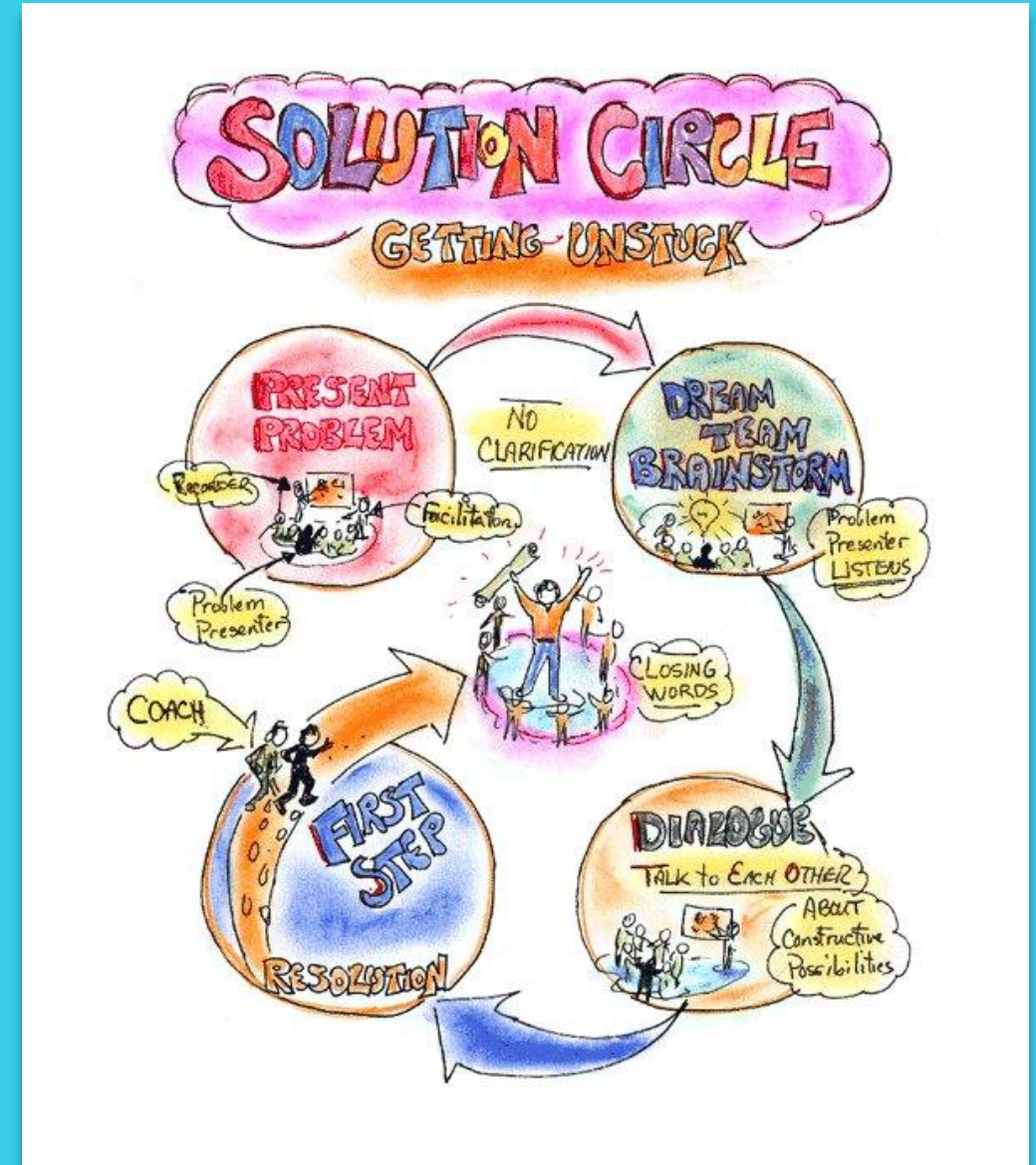
Structured conversations

Solution circles

- A solution circle is a short and powerful tool that takes up to an hour. The approach was developed by Forrest, Pearpoint and colleagues (1996) and it aims to bring together a group of people to generate ideas for solutions to a particular problem.

Solution circles

- [SOLUTION CIRCLE - Inclusion Press](#)
- 30 minutes
- Given roles - problem presenter, process facilitator, note taker, brainstorm team
- Step 1 problem presenter 6 minutes
- Step 2 Brainstorm 6 minutes
- Step 3 Dialogue led by problem presenter 6 minutes
- Step 4 The first step - focus person and group decide 6 minutes
- Round of words



Additional ideas/tips

- Have a Solution focused question
- Ask someone to chair and take notes
- For very difficult conversations employ a mediator

Next step?

What
opportunities
do you see to
move forward?

Discuss in break
out rooms -
feedback

Parental Partnership

- “Reaching out to all parents, making sure they know how important they are and how they can best support their child is one of the most important tasks for a school.” John Hattie

Additional Information - useful links

- [Working with parents/carers and other professionals - Self-study task 17 \(ioe.ac.uk\)](#) For PGCE trainees Working in partnership Working with parents/carers and other professionals Self-study task 17
- [What every parent needs to know about the SEND Code of Practice 2015 - Integrated Treatment Services - The Voice](#)
- [Ofsted Parent View Toolkit \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) This toolkit explains Ofsted Parent View. Schools can use it to encourage parents and carers to share their experiences of their child's school using Ofsted Parent View.
- [Parentkind - Why parents matter](#) John Hattie research