

Reports and Testimonials from the Second Step Liaison Training 5/30/02

Second Step

The RURAL Prevention team continues to provide services and support for schools who implementing Second Step. Many teachers who utilize the program are seeing benefits in the classroom, at recess, after school, and during lunch period.

Second Step Tips

1. Take advantage of 5 or 10 minutes at the end of school day or before lunch to present Second Step lessons or review skills.
2. Use the book resource supplement provided in each school's library to enhance Second Step lesson.
3. Copy the Scope and Sequence from the Teacher's Guide to easily monitor upcoming lesson.
4. Take the opportunity to practice Second Step skills during all time of the school day.

Second Step Success Stories...

An elementary teacher reported, "I love using Second Step. It is so easy and requires to preparation time. If I finish lesson before the end of the day, I pull out a Second Step card to fill the time before school is over."

Note from kindergarten parent was sent to the teacher saying, "My child has been telling us all about empathy. My husband and I about fell out our chairs! It was awesome! Thanks so much for all you do!"

Teacher states, "When disciplining my class it is natural to refer to what we talk about in Second Step. We often refer to how others might feel".

Second grade student asked her parent, "Do you know what is different this year?" (This was the student's first year for Second Step) The student then answered, "I think about other people."

Second grade teacher states, "I have begun to realize how nice it is to take time out of the day to discuss things that normally don't get discussed. It was especially nice when we had a new kid since Second Step talks about empathy and how we need to accept differences."

First grade teacher said, "I really like the supplemental materials available at the end of each lesson."

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Fifth grade and kindergarten teachers both state that their kids really enjoy doing Second Step, and the teachers then observe them solving some of their own problems!

One kindergarten parent asked if the teacher was talking about feelings in the classroom. The teacher said “yes” and explained how Second Step teaches empathy. The parent went on to relate that the other day she was disciplining her child and her child yelled, “You hurt my feelings”. The parent replied, “My feelings are hurt also”. The child gave the parent a long look and said, “oh, I am sorry”.

Daisy Program (Girl Scouts) Leader: Kindergarten student at Daisy Program said, “I used an ‘I’ message”.

1st grade child said “I am a problem solver”.

Middle School Guidance Counselor plans to distribute monthly strategies for all teachers to use, to prompt students to practice the Second Step skills.

School Psychologist/Counselor at elementary school: In one grade level the students were having problems with their recess behaviors. The teacher reviewed the problem-solving steps from Second Step before each recess, and then after recess she asked the students how they used the problem-solving steps. The students shared examples of using the Second Step strategies.

School Psychologist/Counselor at elementary school: It helps to have all of the teachers in the building teach it. One teacher reported to her, “When we have a few minutes before a transition, it is just so easy and quick to pick up a card and discuss or role play from a lesson we have done that week,”. Teachers report it is a way for them to interact with the students at a different level.

Elementary School Guidance Counselor: This program is researched based, and is so effective because teachers use the same vocabulary and repetition – so it works much better.

Several of the Second Step liaisons reported that the students use the skills when the teachers emphasize the strategies and prompt them to practice the skills. They need strategies to get them to use the skills.