The Art of Kid Whispering: Reaching the Inside Kid

Mark Freado & JC Chambers
Thriving Journal

http://growingedgetraining.com/thriving

Shared at no cost to our colleagues around the world.
If you are interested in a handout for this presentation you can access it at:
GrowingEdgeTraining.com/handouts
It is KW Handout
Horse Whisperer

- A horse whisperer adopts a sympathetic view of the motives, needs, and desires of the horse, based on modern equine psychology.
“A ‘Kid Whisperer’ is a teacher-counselor who adopts a compassionate view of the motives, needs, and desires of youth, based on modern strength-based psychology.

A ‘Kid Whisperer’ is one who attempts to connect with youth that have become adult-wary and untrusting due to neglect or abuse.
Listen

• With one ear
• With ten eyes
• With one heart
Movement from Horses to Kids

- Beyond Language
- Tending to Your instincts
- Listen!!!
The Reachable Moment

- Recognize
- Respond
Kid Whispering with distrusting youth
Kid’s Costumes
Costumes Vary

aggressive
passive
leader, manipulative
oppositional, acting out
invisible
comedian
perfectionist
5 Classic Costumes
A Word on Costumes

How can I get what I want?

How can I keep what I have?

How can I avoid the sunlight?
Playing Peek-a-Boo
Think About Costumes

What are the typical types of costumes your kids present?
Master the Dance!
Iyeska

- The Lakota word for interpreter
- To speak clearly
The Inside Kid
Pain – Based Casing

- SAFETY THREAT
- INTERPERSONAL THREAT
- EASY MARK
- IRRELEVANT
Glimpses of the Inside Kid

- Determine the prompt or invitation
- Accept with ease
- Clarify who is in control
Letting Silence Happen

- Disciplined skill
- Time to reflect
- Consider the risk
The Join-Up

- Skillful, strategic adult
- Safe young person
- The gift of openness
Transform the Reachable Moment

- Creating the Teachable Moment
You can take the child out of trauma

- Implicit & explicit memories
- Trip wires of fear and/or shame
Model of Leadership & Service

Purpose
Power
Achievement
Belonging
Safety

Your compass to positive youth development
Running toward...
20 Minutes of Darkness
I Need Help
Moving to the Light
Outside Kid

Inside Kid

Hurt his brother

- Needs/Interests
- Self-Esteem
- Pain
- Trust
- Hopes
- Dreams

Logic

Emotion
Asking “good questions”

“You ask questions about what I’m talking about.”
Let the healing begin

Recommendations:

- Counseling Interventions
  - Individual in the detention center
  - Family in the detention center
  - Release for counseling in the office
  - Reunification
Next Sighting
Six A’s of Social Reinforcement

- Attention
- Acknowledgement
- Appreciation
- Approval
- Affirmation
- Admiration
“Tipping Points for Change”
Playfulness
2011 Athletic Honors

Team Defensive Player of the Year
All League First Team
All District First Team
All State Honorable Mention
Man fatally shot outside Hilltop bar

The Columbus Dispatch
Friday September 16, 2011

...death is the city’s 67th homicide of the year.
Listening, Listening, Listening

Positive steps toward addressing initial impact of trauma, grief and loss:

- Take down the news clippings of the crime.
- Replace with photographs of good times with Dad.
- Talk with Mom about feelings (his and hers)
- Feeling pretty good — Me, Tony, not so much.
Listening better

- Subdued affect.
- Intermittent eye-contact.
- Rapid, sustained leg movement.

Tony, from our conversations so far we’re doing pretty well. Can you help me find my way closer to where you are?
“I want to go to where it happened; exactly where it happened.”

“I want to lay down in the place where my father died.”
How will this help you, Tony?

“I want to lay down where he died …
Contact Information:

Mark Freado

Freado@GrowingEdgeTraining.com

614-783-6314

GrowingEdgeTraining.com