

Restorative Practices with Youth: Building Connections to Change Behaviors, Repair Relationships and Improve Results

On November 15th, Gwen Olton, Senior Consultant with CCSI's Training and Practice Transformation team, gave a talk and participated on a panel at the recent 2017 [Starbridge Education Conference: Restorative Practices: Building Connections to Change Behaviors, Repair Relationships and Improve Results](#). Gwen's talk focused on trauma-informed care and its relationship to restorative practices. She outlined three important strategies that can be employed to align with these two perspectives:

- 1) Relationship-building – Building Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships (SSNRs).
- 2) Power-Sharing – Sharing power in relationships.
- 3) Needs-Based Consciousness – Changing our interpretations of others' behaviors from judgement to understanding that behaviors are attempts to get needs met.

Gwen helped illustrate how current models used in the classroom contrast to approaches which use these above strategies. For instance, rather than a teacher using an authoritarian demand (e.g. Stop hitting your pencil on your desk), the teacher could instead express how a student's actions might be impacting them or others in the classroom (e.g. I'm distracted when you're hitting your pencil on the desk and I'm worried others might be too. Are you willing tap your foot instead?).

Gwen also discussed a spectrum of communication practices and restorative approaches that can be used in a variety of settings and are especially helpful with youth. Please contact Gwen at golton@ccsi.org to learn more.