

Session Abstract
for
Virginia Counselor Association Annual Conference

November 10-12, 2011

Neil McNerney, M.Ed., LPC

Title – Homework – A Parent’s Guide To Helping Out Without Freaking Out!

How do parents find a way to be a leader when it comes to their children's education without losing it? Neil McNerney, Licensed Professional Counselor and Parent Consultant, has developed a theoretically solid approach that allows parents to be positive leaders while keeping their sanity intact.

Learning Objectives

1. Differentiate between the seven ways that children deal with schoolwork issues and understand the underlying motivators for each one.
2. Understand that there are only three effective ways that parents can be influential leaders on school issues.
3. Be able to decide which of the three leadership tools are best used with each of the seven student styles, leading to a better chance of success.

This approach is solidly based on Bowen Family Systems Theory, updated to be relevant to today’s parent. Many parents have become much less differentiated when it comes to their children, which leads them to either cut off or become fused with their children. This approach helps them take a mental step back and use both their emotional and logical part of their brain to assess their children and become strong leaders.

Teaching Methods:

The workshop will be a combination of interactive discussion, activities, and question/answer. Specific activities that encourage movement throughout the room will be used to enhance learning. There will be an opportunity to have a number of short dyad and triad conversations to reinforce learning objectives. Significant time will be allowed for question and answers.

Learning support

Visual support will be provided through the use of an lcd projector. I have found that the use of powerpoint slides that are text intensive tends to disrupt learning. Therefore, images will be used primarily.

Handouts will be provided that detail more specifically the approach and how professionals can use the ideas.

Participants will demonstrate their attainment of the learning objectives through observation of the interactive activities during the workshop. In addition, the questions asked will be an excellent indicator of the attainment of the learning objectives.

About The Presenter:

Neil McNerney

- Adjunct faculty member at the Va Tech Graduate School of Marriage and Family Therapy
- Counselor in private practice
- Author of: Homework - A Parent's Guide To Helping Out Without Freaking Out!
- Certificate in MFT, 1994 Virginia Tech;
- M.Ed. School Counseling, 1988 James Madison University;
- Licensed Professional Counselor in Virginia 0701002288 since 1994

Online CV is available at: <http://www.visualcv.com/neilmcnerney>

Books and Articles:

Homework – A Parent’s Guide to Helping Out Without Freaking Out – 2011

“Just Calm Down – How to help calm the parent-teacher conference” Article for School Counselor, the American School Counselor Association national magazine. Spring 2011.