

HUH ?!?

*a newsletter about working
with children and youth in groups*

Volume 1. Number 2.

Spring - 1996

The Mission of the Long Island Institute for Group Work With Children and Youth is:

To promote and enhance effective group work practice with children and youth through advocacy, education, and collegial support.

HUH?!? is the Institute's quarterly newsletter dedicated to providing information, inspiration and support for anyone working with young people in group settings.

In the Trenches:

The Long Island Institute for Group Work With Children and Youth is conducting action research on the group training needs of youth workers (professional and non-professionals) ... the questionnaire includes a series of closed and open ended items ... one open ended question asks for the *worst experience you've had while working with youngsters in groups* ... A few of the 200 responses collected thus far include:

- ☉ "When they began shoving each other and throwing food"
- ☉ "When a drunk grandfather stormed into the group room and berated me and his granddaughter"
- ☉ "When everyone showed up high on marijuana."
- ☉ "When the group turned on me"
- ☉ "When I was threatened with knitting needles!"
- ☉ "When a magic marker was thrown across the room during an observed visit."
- ☉ "When a group member asked me if I engaged in oral sex."

We also asked: *What was the best moment you recall in working with a group of youngsters?* Responses included:

- ☉ "When a 4th grader bonded with a 2nd grader who was experiencing separation anxiety."
- ☉ "Seeing a group run by itself."
- ☉ "When a child contributes to the team and is recognized by his peers. Particularly if it is a child of lesser (athletic) talent."
- ☉ "When a student risked confronting another student in group about his drug use."
- ☉ "When a member in a group of 12-year old girls with difficulty making friends brought hand-made and personalized holiday cards for each member."

ANY OF THIS SOUND FAMILIAR? Write to "HUH?!?" with your worst experiences or your best ones. (Results of the Action Research Project to be completed in the Fall/Winter, 1996-97.)

chaos

* Essentially, chaos theory holds that within simple orderly systems there are pockets of wild disorder and that within disorderly, seemingly chaotic systems, there are pockets of precise order -- E. Pozatek

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Writer/poet Gloria Anzaldua, in a recent interview with the Utne Reader (#72) said: "We need guidelines for how to come to know one another. We don't know how to listen. Everybody seems to be listening, but what they're really doing is rehearsing what to say next, when the other person shuts up and they can jump in with their agenda."

Ring a bell?

Long Island Institute
for Group Work With
Children and Youth
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Roslyn Hgts., NY 11577

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TIPS For: Adolescent Groups

This issue's "TIPS For:" column is devoted to Adolescent Groups.

Working with adolescent groups can be a humbling experience for any adult.

What to do to prevent your self-esteem from taking a beating?

TIP: MAINTAIN YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR AND CHECK YOUR EGO AT THE DOOR!

EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Results of the Long Island Institute for Group Work's Action Research Project will be available in the Fall/Winter 1996-97.

Need research info. on young adolescents (10-15 years old)? Call the Search Institute at 1-800-888-7828. Ask for their newsletter: "SOURCE"

Training Workshops: **MAY 10, 1996** *Chemically Dependent Families and Resistant Adolescents* and **JUNE 7, 1996** *Violence and Its Impact: Victims Who Become Abusers* Workshops will be held at North Shore Child & Family Guidance Center, 480 Old Westbury Rd.; Roslyn Hgts., NY 11577. The cost is \$35.00 per person. The workshop runs from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For questions and/or registration call: Jane E. Yazdpour (516) 626-1971.

Summer Certificate Program - **JULY 11, 18, 25, AUG. 1, 8, 1996** - Long Island Institute for Group Work With Children and Youth. Five session professional seminar for experienced group workers. \$150.00 per person. Contact Andrew Malekoff at (516) 626-1971 for more information.

HUH?!? is the quarterly newsletter of the Long Island Institute for Group Work With Children and Youth, a program of North Shore Child & Family Guidance Center; 480 Old Westbury Road; Roslyn Hgts., NY 11577; Phone: (516) 626-1971 •• Fax: 626-8043. Executive Director: Marion Levine, ACSW; Director of Program Development and Newsletter Editor: Andrew Malekoff, ACSW. Participating Agencies: Youth Directions and Alternatives, Huntington; Herricks School District; Sanctuary Project, Huntington; Plainedge School District; L.I. Crisis Center, Bellmore. Copyright April 1, 1996/USA.

For more information complete this form and return to:

Long Island Institute for Group Work
With Children and Youth
Attn: Andrew Malekoff
480 Old Westbury Rd.; Roslyn Hgts., NY 11577



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____