

# HUH ?!?

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

Volume 1. Number 3.

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## 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:

In a recent survey of group members, the Long Island Institute on Group work With Children and Youth asked youngsters,

*"What are some things a group leader should never do?"*

Here are a few of their responses:

- ⊗ Give false information (age 15)
- ⊗ Not listen (age K)
- ⊗ Bribe the students (age 15)
- ⊗ Be mean (age 15)
- ⊗ Be bossy or impatient (age 17)
- ⊗ Act bored (age 16)

- ⊗ Pressure someone to say something that they didn't want to (age 16)
- ⊗ Call kids idiots (age 12)
- ⊗ Use what kids say against them (age 13)
- ⊗ Tell what's said in the group (age 14)
- ⊗ Break the confidentiality rule (age 14)
- ⊗ Force anyone to talk (age 14)
- ⊗ Touch or yell at a child (age 9)
- ⊗ Curse, do drugs, hit any of us (age 9)
- ⊗ Make nasty comments about group members (age 14)

ANY OF THIS SOUND FAMILIAR? We invite you to ask your group members this same question. Write to us with their responses and we will print them.

## chaos

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*\* 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*

When the group meets for the first time, there is much confusion around what we are all up to. Typical opening remarks, despite careful preparation, include: "why are we here", "when is this class over", "I told my mother that this is the last time I'm coming", "is this room bugged", "I can't come anymore because my favorite television show is on at this time", etc. The non-verbal behavior may include the following: restrained restlessness (don't fret, unrestrained restlessness comes a little later on), darting eyes (searching for bugging devices or the titles of the "shrink's" books), front legs of all chairs elevated about one foot off the floor and back rests planted firmly on the wall (the wall soon reveals an indelible signature of back rest compressions) and the subtle scavenger hunt for an object to hold on to, are but a few. When the verbal and non verbal behavior are integrated, one observes caution, apprehension, curiosity, suspicion and restrained energy. All of this occurs instantaneously, yet perpetually. A glance at the clock reveals that only a minute has passed.

From: A. Malekoff, "Socializing Pre-Adolescents Into the Group Culture",  
*Social Work with Groups*, 7:4, 1984

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## TIPS For: Planning and Good Beginnings

This issue's "TIPS For:" column is devoted to planning and beginnings.

As the school year comes to a close, many groups are ending. As September approaches, the planning process begins as we begin to think about starting new groups.

**TIP:** Tune-in to the needs of prospective group members; identify what needs the proposed group will attempt to meet; begin to develop a group purpose to guide the group along.

## EVENTS AND RESOURCES

### QUESTIONS TO THE READER:

What would you like to see in future newsletters?

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What would be helpful to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any anecdotes, tips, wisdom ... to pass along? If so, send it to "HUH?!?" and we'll spread the word:

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For more information complete this form and return to:

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