

Edition 06 – 4

Summer 2008

# Research Précis

## Best Practices: Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities

Creating a better tomorrow...

### Title: Child Development Project

#### Overview:

The *Child Development Project (CDP)* is a whole-school intervention program designed to help transform elementary schools into “caring communities of learners” that will in turn help students build a sense of commitment to their school and community, strengthen interpersonal skills, and develop positive values.

*Targeted Ages/Grade Levels:* Grades K-6

*Extent/Duration of Program:* The program is year-round, involving students at all grade levels, their families, teachers, and school administrators.

#### Program Costs:

- Program materials and costs are negotiable depending on facets desired or needed.
- Training support is available as part of an ongoing school professional development program.

#### For further information, or to order:

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<http://www.devstu.org/cdp/index.html>

*Principles/Approaches/Components:* The Child Development Project (CDP) is based on the premise that students can learn pro-social values from adults and simultaneously develop values through participating as members of a mutually concerned, caring community. The program emphasizes opportunities for students to collaborate in pursuit of common goals, help others and receive help when needed, discuss and come to understand feelings and different perspectives, practice social skills, and assume responsible roles in their school community. The program components include community building, cooperative learning, developmental discipline, and a literature-based approach to reading and language arts.

*Evidence-based Effectiveness:* In numerous evaluation studies ranging from 1988 to 2004, findings indicated general improvement for treatment students in interpersonal classroom behavior, social skills related to understanding of interpersonal problems and abilities to solve those problems, and commitment to certain democratic values. Follow-up data collected two years after students left elementary school have also revealed positive effects on students' conflict resolution skills, self-esteem, and involvement in extracurricular activities.

#### Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) connections:

A.ii - Activities that promote a sense of individual responsibility.

E.xvii - Developing and implementing character education programs that take into account the

views of parents of the students for whom the program is intended and such students.  
E.xi - Programs that encourage students to seek advice from, and to confide in, a trusted adult regarding concerns about violence and illegal drug use.

### **National Standards connections:**

*Grades K through 6*

Health Education Standard 4 – Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.

Health Education Standard 5 – Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.

Health Education Standard 6 – Students will Demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.

Health Education Standard 7 – Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.

*National Health Education Standards, Second Edition: Achieving Excellence. American Cancer Society, 2007.*

Counseling: Personal and Social Development Standard A: Students will acquire the knowledge, attitudes and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.

Counseling: Personal and Social Development Standard B: Students will make decisions, set goals and take necessary action to achieve goals.

*ASCA National Standards for Students. American School Counselor Association, 2004.*

### **Recognition and additional reports:**

The following organizations/institutions have recognized *Child Development Project*. The organizations are in alphabetical order and the status of the recognition is in parentheses.

Promising Practices Network (Promising Program)

SAMHSA (Model Program)

U.S. Department of Education (Programs That Work, and Promising Safe and Drug Free Schools Program)

**GENERAL NOTES:** The information in this research précis was originally synthesized by Designed Instruction, LLC as an SDFSC Best Practices Brief for the Kansas State Department of Education. The intent of the revised, nationally correlated version is to serve a wider range of teachers and school administrators dedicated to helping reduce violence and substance abuse. The information was current as of December 2006. Details pertaining to status of program recognition, further research and findings, program costs, and contact addresses and numbers are subject to change.

Correlations to the Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) federally approved activities and to national education standards have been limited in depth (“standard” level only) and breadth (number of standards and subjects) due to the encompassing nature of many programs that typically qualify as model or exemplary. The correlations listed should not be viewed as exhaustive.

**DISCLAIMER OF ENDORSEMENT:** Designed Instruction, LLC does not officially endorse resources and information available through this document or otherwise provided in Web pages devoted to Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities other than those links that lead to resources wholly developed by Designed Instruction and solely distributed on the Designed Instruction Web site.