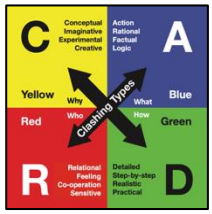


Connected Communication To Thrive: A Three Tiered (MTSS) Support System

Executive Summary by Dr Pete Stebbins PhD



A 'Thriving' child (or adult) feels a sense of connection and belonging which creates the safety and support needed to learn and grow to their full potential. To ensure everyone can 'Thrive' we have to overcome two significant barriers to connection and belonging:

1. Showing empathy and kindness to others requires more upfront effort (despite the positive benefit afterwards) than being indifferent, ignoring or diminishing others. To overcome this barrier, *we need to make showing empathy to others easier*!

   1.1 When we make empathy easier for our students to show towards their peers we can increase the amount of connection and belonging felt among peers – creating more sustainable friendships and eradicating bullying driven by misunderstandings and personality clashes *(Tier 1 support – students).*

   1.2 We can also give our students a valuable way to understand any social rejection as something that is more often than not a 'mis-match/ mis-connection' of personalities as opposed to a character fault within themselves thus reducing the risk of unhealthy self-blame and self or other destructive behaviours *(Tier 1 & 2 support – students and staff).*

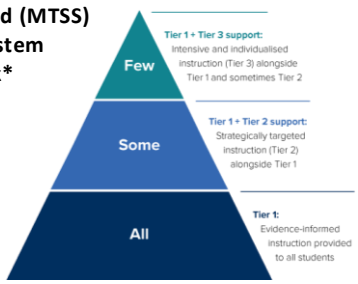
2. Showing empathy and kindness to others is not a 'one size fits all' approach but rather there are 4 possible ways other people prefer communication and *we need to teach the skillsets needed to connect to the 4 possible preferences*.

   2.1 When we train educators with the skillsets needed to provide praise, appreciation and feedback to students that connects with the 4 possible personality preferences we (i) simplify how to build strong student-teacher relationships which are needed for deep learning; and (ii) create efficient language and learning connections for the student to fast-track their own growth *(Tier 1 & 2 teaching & support staff)*

   2.2 When we train behaviour support staff in Connected Communication and integrate this approach into Case Management and Personal Support Planning we often resolve behavioural barriers to learning that are otherwise attributed to more serious clinical conditions or oppositional defiance (when this may or may not be the case) – thus ensuring minimally disruptive modifications and practices are deployed prior to using more significant adjustments, accommodations and consequences *(Tier 2 & 3 specialist support staff & education support leaders).*

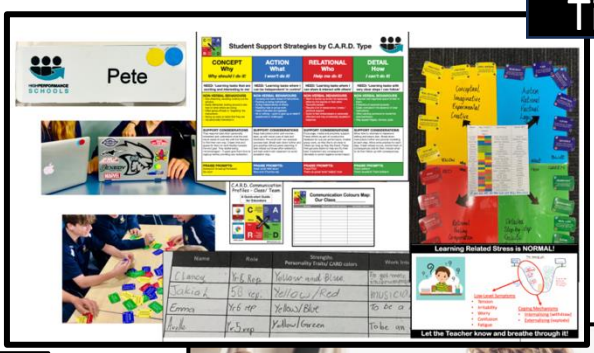
We've been sharing Connected Communication tools with 600+ schools and are seeking expressions of interest from schools and systems who are interested in implementing a longitudinally focused three tiered (MTSS) support system in their schools.

Three Tiered (MTSS) Support System Framework*



(*Compatible with MTSS, PBL, PBIS, RTI etc.)

Tier 1

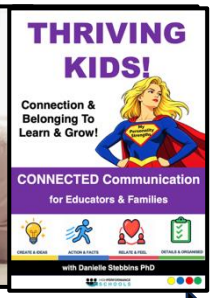




Tier 3



Tier 2



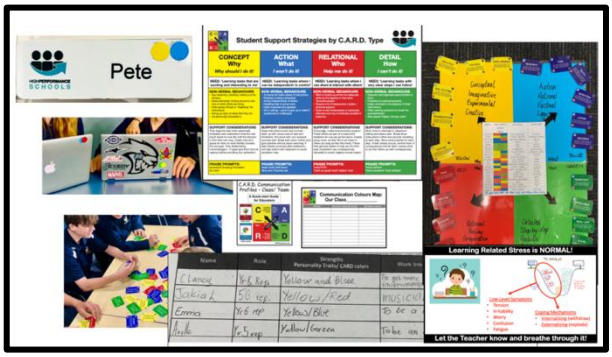
IMPLEMENTATION: 3 STAGES

Stage 1	Stage 2A	Stage 2B	Stage 3
Implement Connected Comm. Strategy with relevant* Working Party (Tier 1 & 2 Support & Pilot Projects).	PL Program for all staff for Universal Supports Tier 1) / Student CARD workshops - all students.	Implement Tier 3 Behaviour Support Case Management Framework & Toolkit.	Evaluation & Reinvigoration with New Staff & Students (& Parents).

Training, Tools & Competencies*

Tier 1 Training – All Staff & Students

Tier 1 CONNECTED Communication training involves participating in team/class profiling workshops and personal capability to use toolkit, dots and tipsheet level strategies with staff and students.



Our Tier 1 implementation plan is: _____

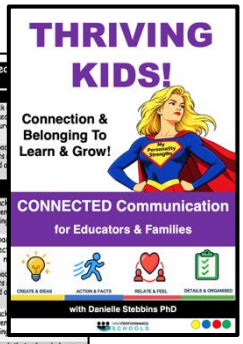
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Tier 2 Training – Classroom Teachers & Support Staff

Tier 2 CONNECTED Communication involves further training on child development and detailed CARD profiling. We cover drivers of student distress, disengagement and how to create student support profiles.



Name	Highest: Top 2	Lowest: Clashing	Praise & Appreciation	Inner Critic	Affirm/ Self-Support	Feedback
Me/ Partner	(Sticky Dots)					
Me	Yellow/Blue	Green	Awesome! (ideas & energy)	I suck! I should be better than this! I don't fit in! I'm not good enough!	You're not a machine and your best varies with your energy. People who don't respond don't dislike you - they're caught up in their own stuff!	
Partner	Red/ Green	Yellow	So Kind! (YOU & All you do!)	I should've got it right- it's not perfect. They won't like me - I'm not good enough!	No one is perfect- everyone makes mistakes. Not everyone I like has to like me back - trust takes time to build	
Kids/Others						
Child 1	Red/ Yellow	Green	So Helpful! (ideas & energy)	People should be nice and it's always my fault when they're not.	You are beautiful and amazing as you are you are not responsible for other people's behaviour!	
Child 2	Blue/Red	Yellow	Great Work! (effort & hard work)	I should be better/ be able to make others like me! I suck/ I'm hopeless!	Great achievements take a long time and lots of mistakes and practice. People who don't like you despite your efforts are not worth knowing.	
Child 3	Green/Red	Blue	That's Excellent! (YOU & All you do!)	I must get it right! I'm not good enough! I'm a failure I can't fit in!	No one is perfect and everyone struggles with learning and growth. Not everyone is a potential BFF.	
Child 4	Yellow/Red	Blue	So Amazing! (care & consideration)	I should be smarter/ should be able to get on with everyone	Smart people still struggle and boundaries are needed to avoid toxic people.	
Child 5	Blue/ Red	Green	So Helpful! (effort & hard work)	Should've tried harder - people should be kinder...	Things don't always work out - even when I and others have tried our best. You're not a machine!	Feedback that acknowledges my efforts and is clear and direct about specific things I need to improve.

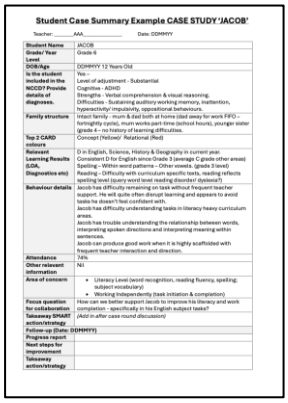


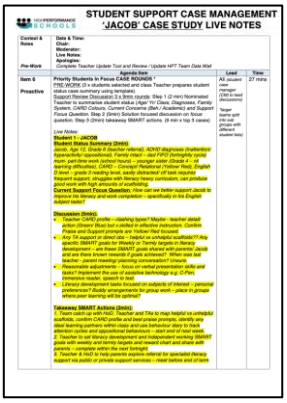
Our Tier 2 implementation plan is: _____

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Tier 3 Training – Specialist Teachers & Support Staff

Tier 3 CONNECTED Communication involves additional developmental, trauma and State/Trait knowledge and boundaries for co-regulation. It also includes specialist case management toolkit training and case formulation skills for working in specialist teams.





Our Tier 1 implementation plan is: _____

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*Facilitator Training Programs Also Available