

Indian Ridge School

Located in Palm Beach County, Florida, Indian Ridge School is a small, therapeutic day school for students identified as Emotionally/Behavior Disordered (EBD). Approximately 100 students are enrolled in this K-12 school. The staff consists of about 85 people, including teachers, paraprofessionals, and a therapeutic team of seven family licensed therapists, a psychologist, and a child/adolescent psychiatrist.

Prior to introducing Project CRISS, the strength of the program was its behavior management component. Little focus was placed on instruction. Principal Sherri Kelty became “hooked on CRISS” after attending a Level I Training facilitated by Master Trainer Bonnie Valdes. Sherri jokes, “my staff was very surprised that I attended a training and did not return to school early from the training!” In fact, she came back totally committed to CRISS and began her implementation plan. She attended Level I and II Trainings and became a CRISS Trainer herself. She had all of her staff attend a Level I Training and then offered both *FCAT/CRISS*

and *CRISS Learning Plan Design* (specialized CRISS courses designed and implemented by Bonnie Valdes).

Another point of Mrs. Kelty’s implementation lies with the CRISS Strategic Learning Plans. She requests teachers teach a CRISS lesson for their observations, and then she spends time during the post observation conference discussing both their plans and the lesson.

Presently all of her returning teachers are CRISS trained. The new teachers received CRISS training prior to the start of the school year. All staff is required to attend the FCAT and Lesson Plan design trainings. In addition, Mrs. Kelty requires CRISS lesson plans monthly.

Staff members have said that the CRISS trainings are “the best they have been to” and “everything we do in the training I can apply to my classroom.”

There is a definite culture at Indian Ridge when it comes to CRISS. The spring test scores (see green box below) are a testimony to what can happen at a school that is focused and committed to a strategy which WORKS!!!!

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Statistics:

Indian Ridge School made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the first time in 2007-08.

75% scored at or above standard in reading (58% is required score).

63% scored at or above standard in math (62% is required score).

Writing: **2007 score was 65**

2008 score was 76

Percent of students below level in reading:

2007—33%

2008—25%



About the Author: Sherri Kelty is the principal at Indian Ridge School in Lake Worth, Florida. She has a B.S. in Elementary/Special Education from Lesley College, an M.Ed. in Deaf Education from Western Maryland College, and is presently enrolled in a graduate certificate program in Traumatic Brain Injury at George Washington University. Sherri has been in public education for 38 years as a teacher, personnel specialist, assistant principal, ESE director, ESE contact, and as a principal the last 15 years. She became a District Trainer in 2006.

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