



Celebrate Kids Presents Dr. Kathy Koch's Seminars About Millennials

At Celebrate Kids, Inc., we've always believed we teach students, we don't teach math, art, or Bible. This truth has never been more important. Today's students are different and teachers must understand them. Many educators admit that their usual methods and assignments aren't working. Their students seem more impatient, judgmental, and bored than ever before. What needs to change? Why?

Today's students, referred to as Millennials and born since 1982, are unlike any that schools have educated before. They have been raised in a new, drastically different world of technology, video games, and instant everything (e.g., email, messaging, cell phones, i-Tunes, and meals). Many educators and parents are negatively judging them, waiting for them to mature and grow out of what seem to be problematic and immature behaviors. Based on what we know about Millennials and the future, they won't grow out of them.

Dr. Kathy is offering the following Professional Development seminars about Millennials and how to teach them successfully for the 2009-2010 school year:

Millennial Students: Why Are They the Way They Are?

For our current students to help us reach other generations, we must first reach and teach them. But, they've been raised in (or by) a world of technology, video games, and instant everything and they're different. It's easy to negatively judge them while we wait for them to mature and grow out of what seem to be problematic and immature behaviors. They're menu-driven, innovative, and used to immediate feedback. They learn from mistakes, change is constant, and they expect the rules to change. Because their brains are wired differently, we're the ones who may need to change. What must we understand and do for this relational, control-alt-delete, mouse-click generation?

ADD and ADHD: Maybe the Problem is Ours (K-12)

What many teachers and parents think of as "attention deficit" may actually be "information deficit" or "speed deficit." Today's students think quickly and expect things to happen instantly. Therefore, it's very possible that they thought about what we said and moved on in their mind. They're waiting to hear something new and they appear to be inattentive. There just hasn't been enough information for them to pay attention to. Many of them get bored quickly. While bored, they may fidget, stare into space, and demonstrate other behaviors that can be attributed to students with ADD and/or ADHD. For these reasons, students who truly have ADD/ADHD may exhibit common symptoms more than students did 10 years ago. The symptoms are actually coming from two or three sources: chemical imbalance, not enough information to keep them focused, and not enough speed to keep them engaged.

Adjusting Teaching Methods for Today's Hard-to-Teach Generation (K-12)

Millennial students can be hard to teach. After all, they think they can learn anything they'll need to know with a click of their mouse. And, because they understand that knowledge quickly becomes outdated, they can judge textbooks and our lectures as irrelevant. Couple this with the reality that many of them don't think they have to read directions or details since they've learned how to work technology without following directions, and we can find resistance staring back at us. How can we do a better job of engaging our students and making sure our content is necessary, relevant, and timely?

Character Quality Education for Millennial Students (K-12)

Too many adults have mistakenly judged today's Millennial students as lazy and disinterested. If that's how we approach character education, it won't work because that's not a true description of this generation. Sure, as with any generation, there are some slackers, but when we plug into their relational interests and their determination to make a difference, we'll discover how great these young people really are. We must approach character education from this perspective.

Choices: Implications for Drop-Down-Menu, Non-Linear Millennials (K-12)

Today's students have been raised with drop-down menus. They're used to choices. Therefore, they don't just want them, they need them. Also, because of the influence of video and computer games, they're non-linear. They believe there's always another way to do things. They can become quickly bored by assignments they've done before. They may resent the times when they must do things a certain way. What can we do?

Perseverance and Problem Solving for the "Control-Alt-Delete" Generation (K-12)

Many of today's students aren't applying themselves because they believe everything should come easily to them. After all, they figured out their cell phone without reading directions. They may also quickly give up because they believe you fix things by hitting "control-alt-delete." How can we respect their intuitive abilities and also help them apply themselves when tasks and skills don't come easily?