

Children's Connection Curriculum

Session Topic: Incarceration (Incarceration Timeline)

Developmental Level: Elementary

Purpose: To help children understand the timeline and order for the incarceration process.

Materials Needed:

- Handout 1: Elements of Incarceration
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue

Description of Session:

1. Provide each student with a copy of Handout 1 (or students can work together in pairs or a large group, using one handout per group).
2. Ask the children to cut out each of the words/elements on the handout and order them from what happens first to what happens last in the incarceration process.
3. Allow for discussion about the meaning of the items on the handout. If the children feel comfortable, allow them to tell their stories about what they know about any of these items as they work.
4. Once the children have completed their order, go through it with them and identify the correct order. Again, allow for discussion and questions, as well as for the kids to tell stories if they feel comfortable as to why they feel it is a certain order.
5. After they have their items in the correct order, allow them to paste the items in order on a piece of construction paper. Spacing will be tight, so the template may be helpful to ensure that all items fit on the construction paper.
 - a. To use the template, simply print the template onto pieces of construction paper so the children have a guide for gluing the elements on.

Discussion Questions:

After the children have completed their Incarceration Timeline, discuss the following (if you haven't already done so). If you don't know all the answers, allow the children to share their opinions and stories to help the group develop an understanding:

1. Discuss what each of the elements mean. What is a crime? What is the difference between a crime that's illegal and something that just isn't nice? What are some examples of crimes that might get someone arrested or sent to jail?
2. What does it mean to get arrested? Who is able to arrest someone? How do the police know that someone needs to be arrested?
3. Why does someone go to jail when they're arrested?
4. What is bail? Why do people need it? Does everyone get to post bail? Why or why not?
5. What is a lawyer? What is his/her job? Why is it important for everyone to have a lawyer if they have to go to court?
6. What happens in between getting arrested and going to court? Does the person get to live at home? What crimes might allow someone to live at home? What crimes might make a person have to stay in jail until court is over?
7. What is court? Who is in the court room and what are their jobs?
8. What does it mean to "get sentenced?" Who does the sentencing? How does the judge decide if someone should go to jail and for how long?
9. What happens when someone's sentence has finished? Are there any special rules that this person has to follow?
10. Does everyone get put on probation or parole?
11. Do all of these steps happen to every person who commits a crime? Why not?