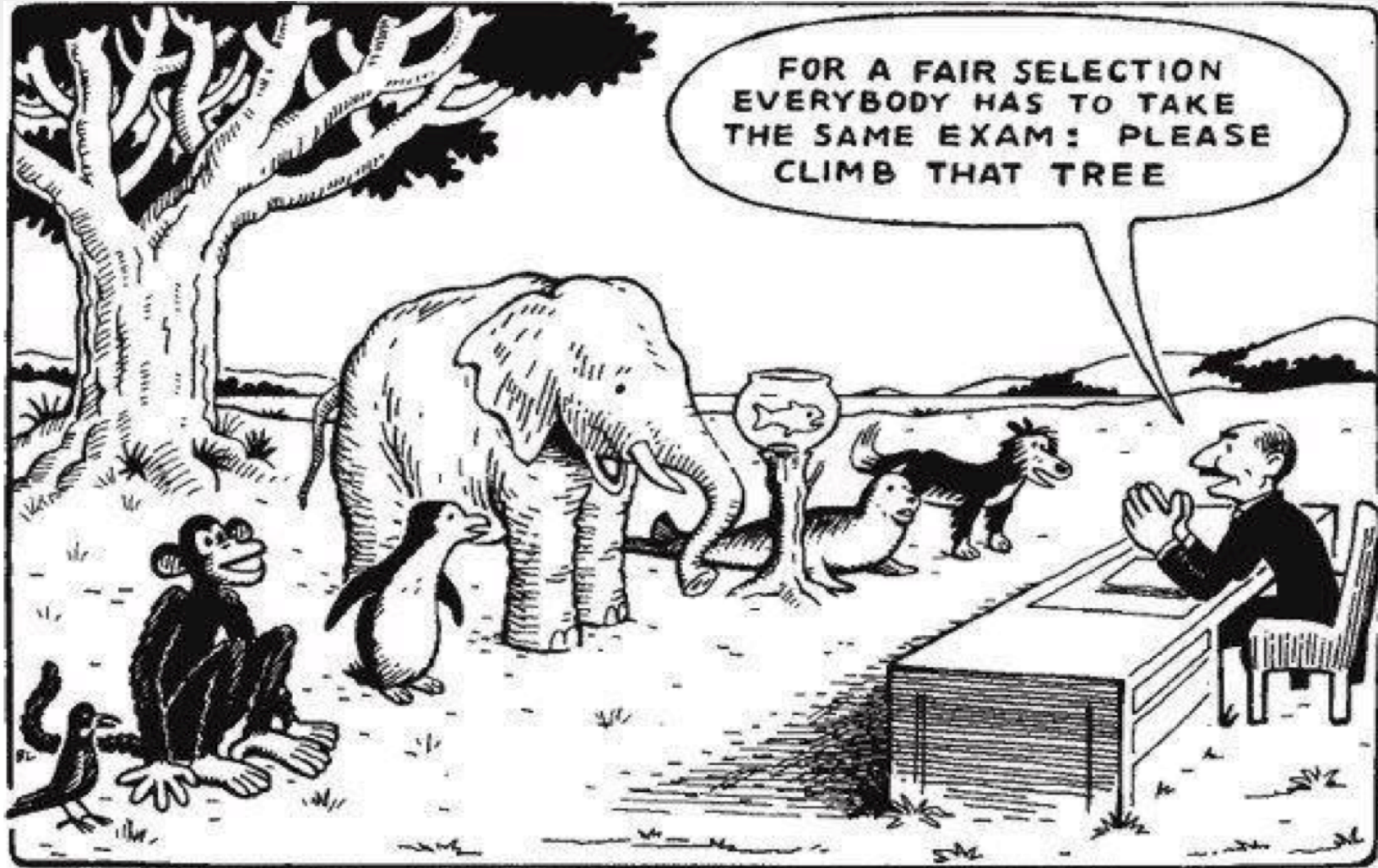


Leadership Techniques for Working with Special Needs Cub Scouts

April 27, 2020

Sam Houston Area Council – Big Cypress Virtual Scouting Week



Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid. - Albert Einstein

- Of the 53.9 million school-aged children (aged 5 to 17) in the U.S. about 2.8 million (**5.2 %**) were reported to have a disability in 2010. For many of these children, the kinds of disabilities they experience may require special approaches to providing education or other accommodations.

- *(2010 US Census)*

- In 2020 the CDC estimated that **1 in 54** children is diagnosed with Autism.

Boys were more than 4 times as likely to be identified with ASD than girls.

Be Prepared

Wise leaders expect problems but do not consider them overwhelming. Though you may view the Scout with a disability as an individual with significant differences, he or she really is not. All Scouts have different needs. The wise leader will recognize this and be prepared to help.

Joining Conference

Leaders should meet with the parents and the new Scout with a disability to learn about the Scout, her physical limitations, her abilities and preferences, and whether she knows any of the other Scouts in the unit. These meetings should be ongoing, especially during times where the Scout needs extra assistance. Brainstorming and mutual support are key factors to success.

Accept the Scout as a person and give him the same respect that you expect from him. This will be much easier to do if you know the Scout, his parents, his background, and likes and dislikes. Remember, any behavior that presents difficulties is a force that can be redirected into more acceptable pathways—rather than erased and rebuilt.

Living the Scout Oath and Law

Example is a wonderful tool!

Demonstrate personal discipline with respect, punctuality, accuracy, conscientiousness, dignity, consistency and dependability.

- Become involved with the Scout in your care.
- Let her know that you care about her, difficulties and all.
- **Judge accomplishments by what the Scout can do, not by what someone says she must do or by what you think she cannot do.**

- Rewarding achievement will likely cause that positive behavior to be repeated.
- Focus rewards on proper behavior and achievement.
- A small word of praise or a pat on the back for a job well done can mean a lot to a boy or girl who receives little elsewhere.

Providing Encouragement

- Reward more than you criticize, in order to build self-esteem.
- Praise immediately any and all good behavior and performance.
- Change rewards if they are not effective in motivating behavioral improvement.
- Find ways to encourage the Scout.
- Teach the Scout to reward himself. This encourages him to think positively about himself.

Cub Scouts Cub Bucks Free Printable



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The "Sticks" Reward System



Giving Instruction

- Maintain eye contact during verbal instruction.
- Make directions clear and concise. Be consistent with instructions.
- Simplify complex directions. Give one or two steps at a time.
- Make sure the Scout comprehends the instructions before beginning the task.
- Allow time for the Scout to “process what you say”
- Repeat instructions in a calm, positive manner, if needed.
- Help the Scout feel comfortable with seeking assistance.

Using Visual Cues

Cub Scout Information



For boys in Kindergarten



All boys earn this badge



For boys in first grade
(or are 7 years old)



For boys who completed
second grade
(or are 8 years old)



For boys who completed
third grade
(or are 9 years old)



For boys who completed
fourth grade
(or are 10 years old)

Arrow of Light



Highest award in Cub Scouting
For boys who completed
fifth grade
(or are 10 years old)



WEBELOS MEANS:
"WE'LL BE Loyal Scouts"

SCOUT OATH
On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

SCOUT LAW
A Scout is trustworthy,
loyal, helpful, friendly,
courteous, kind, obedient,
cheerful, thrifty, brave,
clean, and reverent.



Scout Law

A Scout is.....

 Trustworthy	 Loyal	 Helpful	 Friendly
 Courteous	 Kind	 Obedient	 Cheerful
 Thrifty	 Brave	 Clean	 Reverent

Summer Fun Schedule

M Make Something Monday!  Arts & Crafts	T Get Outside Tuesday.  Outdoor Activities (water table, sand box, pool)	W What's Cooking Wednesday.  baking, cooking	T Time to Read Thursday.  storytime at local library	F Go somewhere fun Friday!  Visit the zoo, aquarium, local museums, get out of the house!
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Den Discipline

- Effective discipline is 90 percent preparation
 - Part of preparation is the awareness of what children are like at various ages.
 - Make assets out of their abilities and interests
- Planning appropriate activities
 - Having enough physical and human resources on hand to keep the group going for the entire meeting

Encourage Positive Behaviors

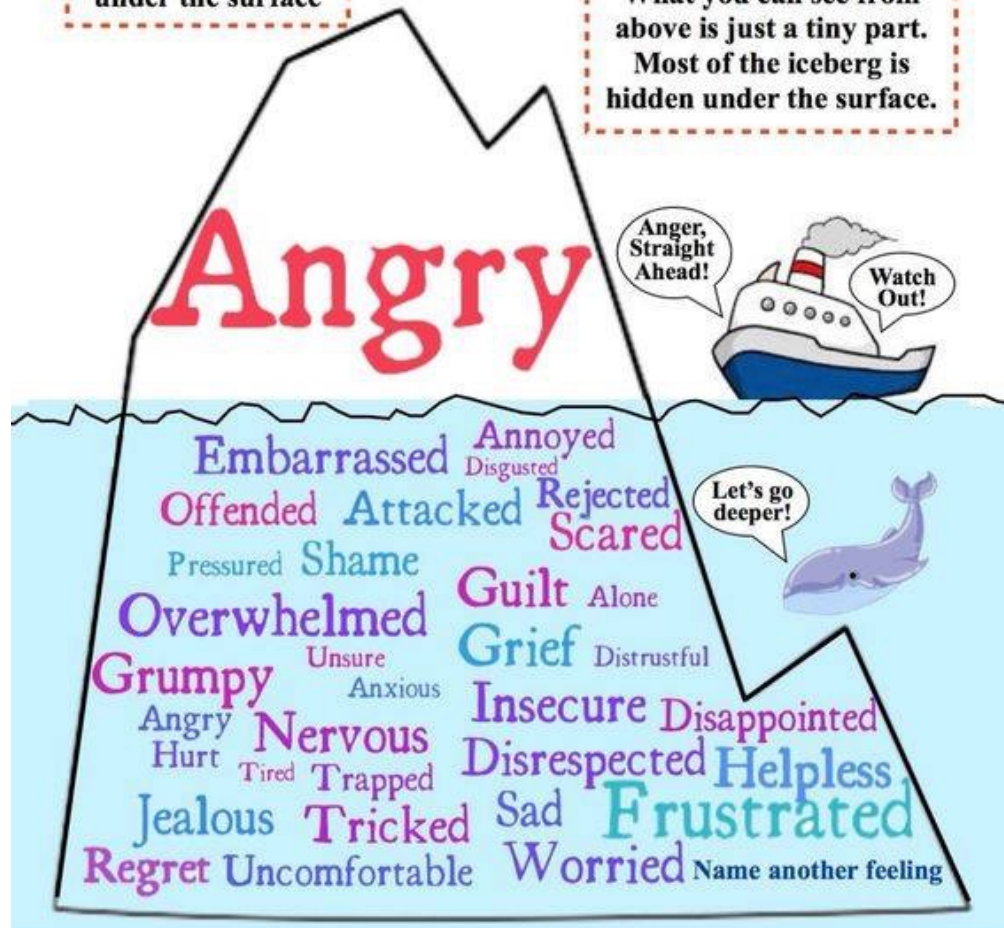
- Expressing clear expectations of good behavior to the Scout and the family
- Developing a den code of conduct with the youth
- Using two-deep leadership, especially on trips and outings
- Having trained Den Chiefs help with den activities
- Following the suggested Cub Scout den meeting structure
- Using positive recognition or reinforcement aids

Behavior is a form of communication. Look for what the behavior is saying (i.e., does the Scout want attention?)

Anger Iceberg

Sometimes when we are angry, there are other emotions under the surface

Icebergs are giant floating pieces of ice found in the coldest parts of the ocean. What you can see from above is just a tiny part. Most of the iceberg is hidden under the surface.



Reflection

- Take some extra time to reflect on each meeting and learn from your own experiences



Solutions to Problems

1. Define the problem
2. Determine the difficulties the problem is causing
3. Determine the kinds of solution that could fix the problem or make it better
4. Try a solution. If the solution doesn't work, try a different one
5. Evaluate the solution. How did it work?

Advancement

Advancement is so flexible that, with guidance, most Cub Scouts with disabilities can complete requirements. The standard is, “Has the Scout done their best?” It may take them longer to attempt requirements and demonstrate this, but their accomplishments will be rewarding to them, their parents, and leaders.

Advancement continued

When a Cub Scout's "best" isn't enough even to get a start, Cubmasters and pack committees may jointly determine appropriate substitutions that are consistent with the Cub Scout showing she can "do her best." Elective requirements could take the place of those required; in consultation with parents, other minor adjustments representing **similar challenges** could be made.

Resources

- *Cub Scout Leader Book*, No. 33221
- *Den Leader Guide*, No. 37003
- <https://cubscouts.org/library/leadership-techniques/>
- *Guide to Advancement*, No. 33088
- *Guide to Working with Scouts with Special Needs and Disabilities*, No. 510-071
- *Scouting with Youth with Disabilities Manual*, No. 34059
- <http://www.samhoustonbsa.org/scouts-with-special-needs>
- <http://www.scouting.org/disabilitiesawareness.aspx>

**“MY SON IS A LITTLE BOY.
HE IS NOT A HERO. HE IS
NOT A VICTIM. SOMETIMES
HE IS HAPPY, SOMETIMES
HE IS SAD. SOME DAYS
HE IS NICE, SOME DAYS
(MOST DAYS?) HE IS NAUGHTY.
PITY IS NOT THE SAME
AS EMPATHY AND SEEING
MY SON FOR WHAT HE
CAN'T DO, RATHER THAN
WHAT HE CAN, WILL HURT
HIS CHANCES TO LIVE
A FULL AND PRODUCTIVE
LIFE FAR MORE THAN HIS
DISABILITY EVER COULD.”**

Mary Evelyn Smith

It's how your perception of a Scout can change HIS reality that should make our volunteers stop and think.