**Why Try Q&A**

**Q: What is Why Try?**

A: The Why Try Program is a strength-based approach to helping children and youth overcome their challenges and improve outcomes in the areas of truancy, behavior, and academics.

**Q: What is the purpose of Why Try?**

A: The purpose of the Why Try Program is to teach students ten visual analogies to help them deal with life’s daily pressures and challenges. The visual analogies consist of solutions and questions written around each picture to help students gain insight into dealing with daily challenges.

**Q: What is the mission of Why Try?**

A: To help people achieve freedom, opportunity, and self-respect through education and interventions that motivates and creates positive change. We offer hope and an answer to the question: "Why try in life?"

**Q: What trainings do I need to implement Why Try?**

A: To begin implementing the Why Try program, you will need to complete the Level 1 training. The Why Try Level 1 Training is a two-day course developed to prepare professionals to use the Why Try Program in a real-world setting. The course includes discussion of each of Why Try's ten visual analogies, an introduction to Why Try music, a peek at several of Why Try's learning activities, opportunities to practice teaching through role-play, and discussion of applications in different settings. After completing the Level 1 training, you can immediately begin implementing, OR enroll in the Level 2 training. The Why Try Level 2 training builds on the principles you've applied from Level 1. This training gives strong focus to successful implementation of Why Try's learning activities, which are particularly helpful in group environments for increasing participation and creating a learning atmosphere. In addition, this training shows you how to effectively use multimedia as a teaching tool in your classroom or setting. You'll learn more about state changes, classroom management, and how to create buy-in. This training is useful for anyone using Why Try, regardless of their experience level.
Q: Who should get the Why Try training?

A: The Why Try program can be implemented by Teachers, School Social workers, School Counselors, School Psychologists, Special Education Teachers, Alternative Education Teachers, At Risk Coordinators, Safe and Drug-Free School Coordinators, Resource Officers, Residential Treatment Staff, Alternative Education, Teachers, Physical Education Teachers, Music Teachers, Youth Advocates, Youth Ministers, and anyone interested in the success of students.

Q: Practically, how does Why Try “help children and youth overcome their challenges and improve outcomes”?

A: The Why Try curriculum uses a multisensory approach to teach critical social and emotional principles that help students learn to persevere despite failure. It is a simple, hands-on program that uses ten visual analogies, that teach in a way that accommodates the different learning styles (auditory, visually, body-kinesthetic). These visual analogies give them insight into how to deal with the daily challenges they face. These analogies are combined with positive music and hands-on experiential activities to teach children and youth in a way they will understand and remember.

Q: What is an example of one of the ten visual analogies used in the curriculum and how is it reinforced with the auditory and body-kinesthetic learning styles?

A: One example, Climbing Out, is an analogy of crabs trying to climb out of a pot. As the water in the pot heats up, the crabs fight to get out when, in reality, they are pulling each other down. The analogy also highlights how peers can try to prevent the student from changing. The accompanying activities include journaling the distinction between friends who are supportive and those who are not; an art activity focusing on how to help others; and an activity that prompts students to identify friends who have been supportive in the past. The addition of arts, music and physical activity further enhance learning for the student.
Q: You mention that Why Try uses music to combine with the analogies to enhance the learning experience. What style of music has Why Try incorporated into their curriculum?

A: Why Try understands that music is very important in the mind of a youth, and it is a critical piece to the multi-sensory strategy of the Why Try Program. Why Try uses different styles of music, including hip hop and rock to connect with youth and to reinforce the social and emotional principles taught in the visual analogies. The Why Try Program includes up to four different songs for each of the visual analogies with music videos for many of the songs.

(See link for sample of Why Try Songs)

5 New WhyTry Songs

(See link for sample of Why Try lyrics)


Q: For what group of students was Why Try originally developed?

A: The Why Try Program was originally developed for adolescents, and most of the original data on Why Try was collected in high schools. Thousands of high schools use Why Try to improve student retention, academic performance, and school climate.

The Why Try Program is often added to an existing course—such as study skills or health—and meets for one period each week over a semester. Struggling students are invited into the Why Try course, where they learn some of the critical social and emotional skills everyone needs to succeed. For students in grades 9 and 10, Why Try can provide tools to help change patterns of failure and indifference and improve their high school career. For students in grades 11 and 12, Why Try can help provide motivation to put in the effort to graduate and lower the anxiety about their future that often leads to self-defeating behavior

Q: How can Why Try help my middle school students?

A: The Why Try Program has proven highly effective at impacting negative student behavior in grades 6 through 8. Developmentally, middle schoolers are in transition. Anything that can be done to remediate and reinforce basic social and emotional skills at this developmental stage can pay dividends down the road. Why Try curriculum can be incorporated into an existing course, added as a new course, used for advisory periods, or even incorporated into homeroom. Whatever the implementation strategy, Why Try is an engaging program that students look forward to and continue to talk about after the course ends.
Q: Is the Why Try curriculum designed specifically for middle school and high school students only?

A: No, Why Try can be easily adapted for different developmental levels. One of the benefits of its visual and hands-on approach is that the Why Try Program can be easily adapted for different developmental levels. When the Why Try customers began to adapt WhyTry materials for use with younger children, they decided to create their own elementary school pilot program. From this pilot, a set of simplified lesson plans and activities for use with elementary-age students was created. The program is now used in hundreds of Elementary schools and many Early Childhood facilities and continues to gain popularity as an early intervention for helping children deal with the increasing challenges they face.

Q: Is the Why Try curriculum Evidence-Based?

A: Why Try is Evidence Based and Effective and is used for: Bullying Prevention, Drop Out Prevention, Changing Behavior, Improving Academics, Drug and Alcohol Prevention, Improving Decision Making, and Truancy Reduction. The curriculum was developed on the basis of solution-focused therapy and emotional intelligence and multiple intelligence theories.

Q: What does the training consist of?

A: Why Try offers:

Why Try Level 1 Training (2 days)

Why Try Level 2 Training (2 days)

Why Try Advanced Techniques Training (2 days)

Q: Do I need all levels of training before I can implement the program?

A: No. You can begin implementing the Why Try program immediately after completing the Level 1 training. However, if your schedule allows, you can enroll in the Level 2 Training following your completion of Level 1.

Q: When will these trainings be offered in my region?

A: The following trainings have been scheduled:

- **LEVEL 1** • June 26-27, 2012 • SAN ANGELO, TEXAS • LOCATION-West Texas Training Center SESSION # 019189
Q: How much does the training cost? What all do I get with this training?

A: The price is $300 per participant. Upon completion, you will receive your DVD and a 1 year license for online access for the following: Secondary/Elementary Curriculum Complete Sets, Learning Activities Expansion Set and Tutorials, On-Demand Online Training & Elementary /Secondary Journal

Q: Would I pay the same amount of $300 per participant if I took the training directly through Why Try at another location?

A: You actually pay ½ the price by participating in the training through Region 15, than if you had taken it directly from Why Try at another location.

Q: How do I register for these trainings?

A: To register go to: www.netxv.net  Click on: Professional Development tab/Register for a Workshop

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on SESSION enrollment. Enter your USER NAME, PASSWORD, and the SESSION NUMBER for which you wish to enroll. (If this is the first time to register for training
with Region 15, you will need to go to **FIRST TIME PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION** in the previous screen to set up a user name and password before registering for the session)

Q: Who do I call or email for more information?

A: For more information about Why Try, call Robyn Tucker at (325) 481-4030 or you can email her at robyn.tucker@netxv.net

Q: How can I find out more about the Why Try program?

A: To find out more about Why Try, go to [www.whytry.org](http://www.whytry.org)