



# Sticks and Stones Exposed: The Truth Behind Words and Relationships

This is one of the most frequently requested training programs we conduct because of its impact on the culture and climate of a school and the resulting improvement in student achievement through the creation of a positive learning community.

As many education professionals strive to work as a strong team for the sake of children, the ability to work together has never been more critical to the success of a school. In fact, the Harvard Principals Center recently released the following statement: **“The most powerful predictor of student achievement is the quality of relationships among the staff.”**

Roland Barth has also chimed in on this critical issue stating, **“The nature of the relationships of the adults that inhabit a school has more to do with the school’s quality and character and with the accomplishments of its pupils than any other factor.”**

Some of the issues covered in this half-day program include:

## Internal Culture/Atmosphere

- What kind of learning community/atmosphere are we creating?
- Are we building “bridges” of support or “barriers” of separateness?
- With the many changes taking place in education, how is the morale of the faculty and students as a whole?
- Are we creating an environment in which people want to collaborate and do their best or just “show up and go through the motions”?

## Communication

- There are seven people within every person (be they faculty, student, parent, etc.) – do you know which one is the key?
- Have we formed some communication habits (ruts) that are subtly destroying the learning environment?
- Are we sabotaging the learning community by what we say and do (and don’t even realize it)?
- Are the words we use building up or tearing down?

## Team Building

- How do we “bring out the best” in teachers and students we have contact with?
- Do we know the six most powerful words and when to use them to build strong relationships?
- Do we understand the incredible power of forgiving and how it can cement a team or classroom together?
- Are we able to see areas and issues that are causing our school to splinter apart and how do we correct it?

## Strategic Focus

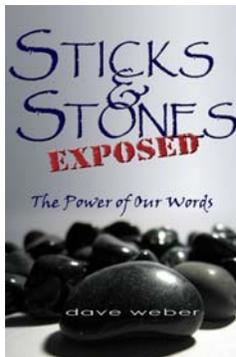
- How do we break the tendency to get caught up in tunnel vision?
- How do we create a sense of “koinonia” where we make progress on purpose with a proven process of drawing people closer?
- Do we understand how clearly communicated team goals can keep us moving in the same direction even when we hit “forks in the road” (conflict)?
- Is it possible that ego and self defense mechanisms are “de-railing” our efforts?

Focusing on a myriad of practical principles and techniques, this session is designed to bring about change...

...changed attitudes,  
...changed perceptions,  
...changed behaviors, and  
...changed lives.

Change is what we stake our reputation on. In fact we believe that, “Training which brings about no change is as effective as a parachute that opens on the first bounce!” The workshop is a fast and fun session. We believe that FUN learning and laughter opens the heart and the head to internalize new principles.

**Sticks and Stones Exposed: The Power of Our Words** is also a published book that outlines the principles unveiled in this in-service. It serves as a great take-away and reminder of the fun and learning that your group experienced together. We invite you to our website and read the first chapter; [www.sticksandstonesexposed.com](http://www.sticksandstonesexposed.com).



For more information about bringing “Sticks and Stones Exposed” into your school system please contact:

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