



What is Tribes?

Tribes is a process that leads to a caring environment that promotes cooperative learning, and a structured environment for positive interaction and ongoing group productivity. It is a program that enables ownership for all participants as it encourages democratic involvement and teaches the skills necessary to achieve these goals. Tribes promotes a comfort level in the learning environment that allows risk taking opportunities for kids, and so, encourages deeper learning and in depth discovery.



How Does Tribes Work?

The process of developing a Tribes TLC[®] classroom includes the development of three basic stages:

Inclusion, Influence, and Community

Through numerous activities and specific planning strategies outlined in the Tribes TLC[®] textbook, and other resources, teachers facilitate the process through these stages. The process experienced by the Tribes TLC[®] classroom is supported by four basic 'ways of being'. These are called the Four Tribes Agreements. They include:

Mutual Respect

The Right to Participate (or) The Right to Pass

Attentive Listening

Showing Appreciation (or) No Put Downs



Inclusion

In this stage students are encouraged to 'present self'. Through numerous activities that are fun and involving, participants will:

- 1) learn about each other on a personal level
- 2) talk and work with numerous different people in the community
- 3) develop a sense of self worth, trust, validation, respect, and belonging
- 4) recognize a feeling of comfort and calm in their learning environment.



Influence

In this stage students are encouraged to express their differences to influence others. Using numerous strategies participants will:

- 1) express opinions and attitudes, and personal feelings
- 2) present ideas without the fear of others passing judgment, and encourage respect for other people's opinions and attitudes
- 3) be involved in activities that ensure the participation of all group members in the decision making process
- 4) share leadership and roles within the group framework.



Community

In this stage participants are encouraged to reflect on the ongoing process in which they are involved. Strategies used to introduce this stage will teach participants to:

- 1) recognize and resolve conflict as it arises
- 2) learn and practice collaborative skills
- 3) reinforce appropriate treatment of each other
- 4) appreciate the importance of the reflection process.



Tribes TLC[®] Teachers Will:

- * Learn new effective strategies to create a comfortable, exciting and productive classroom.
- * Improve at developing creative, structured lessons that will facilitate active learning and enhance the possibility for curricula integration.
- * Enhance classroom management skills through more 'helping' and less 'disciplining' of behaviour issues.
- * Recognize the importance of reflection as an integral part of the learning experience and be adept at incorporating reflection in their daily planning.
- * Be able to monitor and assess student's understanding and behaviours regularly and easily.
- * Increase knowledge about the benefits of collaborative and cooperative education.
- * Acquire a better understanding about how to apply brain compatible learning and multiple intelligences in programming.
- * Experience the process with which they will be involving their students.