

What is the Hidden Curriculum?

According to a leader in the field, Brenda Smith Myles, the Hidden Curriculum is:

“The set of unwritten rules that no one has been directly taught, but everyone knows.”

She warns that:

“Violation of these rules can make an individual a social outcast.”

They span all parts of our experience: *school, home, relationships, the workplace, the community, etc.*

Who is this Pete fellow?

- Pete likes to Teach Art
- Pete likes going to Graduate School, here at MassArt
- Pete likes to Work at a school for Special Learners
- Pete especially likes to Work with Students who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disorders

Alphabet Soup common acronyms

ASD (*Autism Spectrum Disorder*) the umbrella term for diagnoses, ranging from classic Autism to high-functioning Autism and Asperger's Syndrome

AS (*Asperger's Syndrome*) named for Austrian psychologist, Hans Asperger. Also referred to as Asperger's Disorder (AD)

ToM (*Theory of Mind*) the ability to understand others' perspectives and predict their actions

IDEA (*Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act*) federal law ensuring equitable education opportunities for all students

DSM-IV (*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition*) the American Psychiatric Association's publication used by many organizations in the United States when diagnosing and treating individuals with mental disorders

NT/*Neurotypical*) development which follows a commonly prescribed trajectory, often referring to students who do not require special services

DD (*Developmental Disabilities*)

ADHD (*Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder*) a common diagnosis amongst individuals with ASD. When planning interventions, it may be helpful to plan for such a comorbidity

PDD-NOS (*Pervasive Developmental*

Disabilities - Not Otherwise Specified) a common diagnosis for students displaying some but not all deficiencies of ASD. Sometimes an ASD diagnosis will follow an initial PDD-NOS diagnosis

Special Thanks

*My talented students of the
Dr Franklin Perkins School
Dan Serig and the MSAE faculty
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The Boston Globe*

The Hidden Curriculum of the Art Room

Presented by Pete Curran

*National Art Education Association
National Convention: April, 2009*

Find this presentation online at:
www.petecurran.com/hiddencurriculum.html
email: pete@petecurran.com

Objectives

- 1 Define the Hidden Curriculum
- 2 Identify aspects of the Hidden Curriculum in your own classroom
- 3 Understand how the Hidden Curriculum affects students with ASD/DD
- 4 Create an Action Plan for revealing your classroom's Hidden Curriculum

[doodle space]

AS and the HC

Common Obstacles

- delays in development of social maturity and reasoning*
- deficiencies in executive functioning*
- a mismatch of high vocabulary and poor conversation*
- difficulties in controlling or moderating emotions*
- well-developed special interests that may alienate others*
- underdeveloped motor abilities, often clumsy or awkward*
- hypersensitivity to environmental factors*
- Theory of Mind deficiencies*
- confusing bullying/teasing with positive social interaction*

-from Tony Attwood

How do these matter...

...in the home environment?

...in the community?

...in forming friendships?

...in school?

...in the art room?



Shouldn't I be teaching students to challenge this Hidden Curriculum?

In an environment where creativity and unique approaches warrant praise, the art teacher

The Conflict for the Art Educator

(Western) Artists who challenged the Hidden Curriculum
Giotto, daVinci, Van Gogh, Cassatt, Whistler, Warhol
Orson Welles, Andy Kaufman Madonna, Bjork, etc.

Encounters with Hidden Curriculum

The Hidden Curriculum in Literature

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll
Gulliver's Travels, by Jonathan Swift
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, by Douglas Adams

Harry Potter series, by J.K. Rowling

Pretty much anything by Shakespeare

Most stories by Dr. Seuss
And countless fairytales, myths, legends, and fables



Point to Ponder:

In most cases, the reader is presented as the "norm," thrown into a strange curriculum. What if the roles were reversed?

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Haven't I Seen this Before?



Courtesy of Boston.com

The More You Know an action plan

Let's Revisit Our Room Diagram

Referring to your room diagram, imagine that the GREEN dot represents a student with ASD.

How would this alter your perceptions about the earlier interactions?

Thinking beyond physical interactions, how else would the Hidden Curriculum affect this student? Consider your lesson delivery, supplies, language, jokes, sarcasm, meanings of art terms, techniques, alterations to the schedule, etc.

In the space below, identify 3 aspects of your art classroom which may present Hidden Curriculum dilemmas to students with ASD/DD. How would you or have you prepared for these instances? How would you communicate these preparations?

1

2

3

References/Resources

The Hidden Curriculum, by Brenda Smith Myles
The Complete Guide to Aspergers Syndrome,

by Tony Attwood

It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend,

by Richard LaVoie

Navigating the Social World, by Jeanette MacAfee

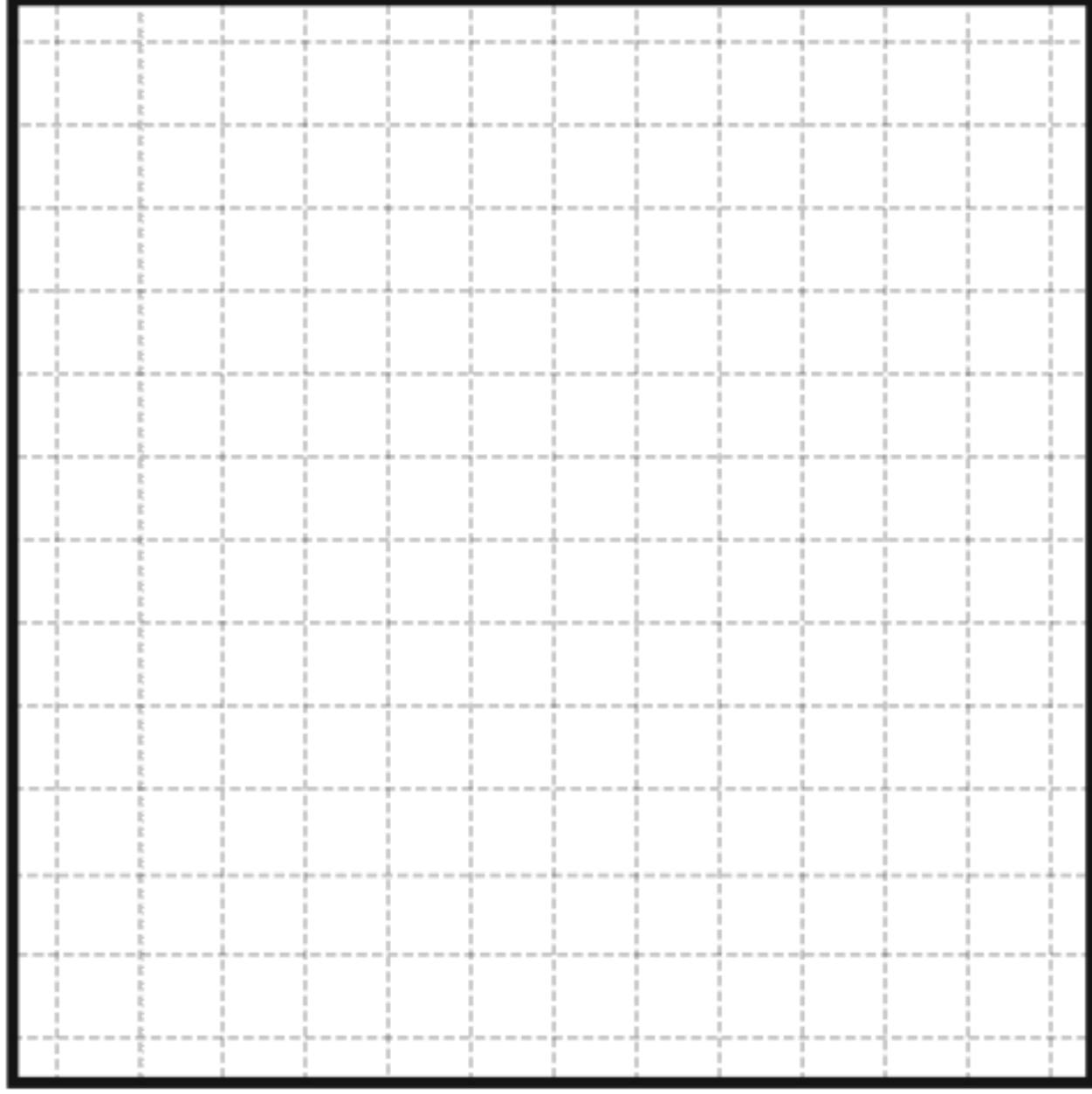
www.ccc.sped.org

www.aane.org

www.autismspeaks.org

Social Mapping

a diagram of influence



INSTRUCTIONS

1. In the box to the left, draw the contour of your classroom.
2. Within this contour, add student desks, tables, and any other important fixtures of your room.
3. Visualize one of your classes to use in this exercise. Draw small circles to signify your students and where they sit in the room. Label the circles with the students' initials.
4. Identify one student in the class who would be considered a 'leader' of the group. Color in that student's dot with BLUE.
5. Identify another student in the class who would be considered shy or removed. Color in that student's dot with GREEN.