Places for Struggling Teens™

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"It is more important to get it right, than to get it first."

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Parent Choices November Review



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Parent Choices For Struggling Teens airs Mondays at 12 pm, Pacific Time on LA Talk Radio, Channel One.

Sober High Schools Are A Model for Education: Devon Green, Director of Education for Newport Academy in southern California, shared the difference between a traditional high school and a "sober high school". "Designed more as a step down program from a more intense residential treatment center, a sober high school or also referred to as a recovery high school, is set up like a typical school day, with students attending school from 9:00 am to 3:13 pm and off on the week-ends. Yet at a sober high school, the students are committed to being sober and are willing to be drug tested as needed, to ensure the school stays safe and drug free. Students also have the support of weekly group therapies such as equine, music and art therapies, therapeutic and substance abuse counseling, life skills training and support from both faculty and parents. 714-345-0815

Whatever Happened To Rites of Passage?: This topic centered on the disappearance of the "rites of passage" for young adults, with Patrick Barrasso of In Balance Ranch Academy and Molly McGinn of BloomTree Learning Community. To clarify what a rite of passage is, Patrick explained that traditional tribal and ancient rites of passage was a test with a ceremony symbolizing the transition from childhood to adulthood and the recognition of a change in the young person that was naturally occurring. "We've lost touch of the importance of these stages in a young person's life, of dying to the old and giving way to something exciting, unique and affirming. These rites of initiation, a celebration of these conquests to adulthood and where a young person feels that they are 'arriving' to adulthood." Molly added that the "intentional, formal rites of passage led by skilled elders and guides are basically non-existent today and yet the need for that recognition for our young people is still present. Without the role of mentors and elders who would normalize the separation of youth from adults in the community, this has left the youth to initiate one another into the adult world (ie: gangs)." Patrick 877-304-3329, Molly 928-478-8813

The Digital Teen Brain: Clinton Dorney and Thomas Holmes from Discovery Ranch discussed the "blessings and curses" of digital media and the results of addictions to digital media. Discovery Ranch is a residential treatment center in Utah. "The kids coming to our program with digital addictions are often thin, pale and withdrawn socially. They struggle with interpersonal interactions and have a hard time with face to face communication. Kids with these addictions spend an average of 8-½ hours daily on screen time…more if you include TV." 801-489-3311