

## Project Description

*Side by Side* is a partnership between **Wediko Children's Services** and the Boston Public Schools, in which consultants and clinicians provide a continuum of clinical services within the Dever, Perkins, and Clap Elementary Schools. *Side by Side* is designed to establish climates where teachers and students can maximize time for teaching and learning, utilizing a flexible menu of services.

## Services

- Consultation to administrators, teachers & families
- Professional development for school staff
- *Side by Side* social skills groups
- Individual & dyad therapy
- Family therapy
- Parent support groups
- Crisis intervention & 24-hour answering service
- Collaboration with volunteer & after-school programs

## Innovative Strategies

Since its beginning in the fall of 2003, the emphasis of *Side by Side* has been on Social Skills Groups that are co-facilitated by Wediko clinicians and school staff.

The carefully structured curriculum provides a clear and consistent framework for each 40-50 minute group session per week.

The curriculum for each group provides the flexibility to meet the goals of individual teachers and to address the developmental needs of students.



## Project Outcomes

### Increasing positive school climate

- Decreases in student suspensions
- Administrators, teachers, and students report a more positive climate

Dever Elementary	Total Suspensions
2004 – 2005	186
2005 – 2006	114
2006 – 2007	96
2007 – 2008	104

### Providing training for teachers

Teachers report:

- Increased skills and competencies
- Better helping relationships with students
- Improved understanding of student needs

93% of participating teachers reported that relationships with their students greatly improved after group participation. (2008-2009)

### Developing pro-social student behavior

Students increase:

- Practice of skills learned during group
- Recognition of others' positive behaviors
- Time on academic and social tasks

67% of students often practice skills from group during class (2008 – 2009).

“Wediko staff are good listeners, excellent collaborators, and efficient organizers; they are caring, trustworthy, and highly competent professionals. They are here with us. They know our children, our community, and our teachers. Wediko responds quickly as new needs become apparent...and they deliver what they promise.”

-Barney Brawer,  
Principal, Perkins Elementary

## Our Mission

Wediko is committed to improving children’s lives. Using a strength-based approach, Wediko responds to the needs of children who face repeated obstacles to development due to social, emotional, behavioral, and learning issues. Through a continuum of flexible services and multidisciplinary training programs, Wediko develops enduring partnerships with children, families, schools, and the community. Wediko strives to capture success and restore a sense of competence and hope.



## School-Based Services *Side by Side*

A Collaborative Model for Building Resilient School Communities



*Restoring Hope  
Together*



### Partner Schools Include:

- Dever Elementary School  
Principal Vivian Swoboda
- Perkins Elementary School  
Principal Barney Brawer
- Clap Elementary School  
Principal Mary Hamilton

### Questions?

If you’re interested in  
**Program Consultation,**  
**Therapeutic Services,** or  
**Professional Training Opportunities,**  
give us a call or visit our website.

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