



Celebrate Kids Presents Dr. Kathy Koch's Seminar:

21st-Century Teaching Skills for 21st-Century Students

There's a lot of talk about 21st-Century Skills. Teachers need to understand them and work to include them in their curricula so our students can be successful today and tomorrow. But, that's not enough. The skills must be taught well and most educators admit that many of their usual methods and assignments aren't working. Their students seem more impatient, judgmental, and bored than ever before. What needs to change? Why?

Today's students, referred to as Millennials and born since 1982, are unlike any that schools have educated before. They have been raised in a new, drastically different world of technology and instant everything (e.g., email, messaging, cell phones, i-Tunes, and meals). Many educators and parents are negatively judging them, waiting for them to mature and grow out of what seem to be problematic and immature behaviors. Based on what we know about Millennials and the future, they won't grow out of them.

Our students' unique characteristics and learning patterns are due to the culture in which they've been raised. Their uniqueness requires updated approaches so educators and students can be successful.

- Students aren't applying themselves because they believe everything should come easily to them. After all, they figured out their cell phone without reading directions. How do we respect their intuitive abilities and also help them apply themselves when tasks and skills don't come easily?
- Students aren't respecting teachers' rules and procedures because they believe there's always a better way to do something. After all, in the video game they played last night, they figured out the rules changed at Level 3 which made the game even better. Can we adjust some of our rules and procedures to better fit who they are? How can we help them when they must follow procedures?
- Students are quickly bored by assignments they've done before because they're used to choices. After all, they've been raised with drop-down menus. Where can we add choices to our systems?
- Students are bullying others, demanding their own way, and often struggling with authority. After all, most television shows and movies they watch are about children who don't have adult authority figures. Many of our students are used to being in charge at home or at least having a great deal of freedom. What adjustments can we make to increase freedom and provide appropriate boundaries?
- Students are asking why they have to learn what they're being taught. After all, they think they can learn anything they'll need to know with a click of their mouse. And, because they understand that knowledge quickly becomes outdated, they can also be hard to teach. How can we do a better job of engaging our students and making sure our content is relevant and timely?
- Students believe you fix things by hitting "control-alt-delete." How can we demonstrate understanding rather than becoming quickly frustrated at their tendency to give up? How can we help them learn how to persevere and think through problems to solve them?

There are two options for this seminar.

- **Half-day format:** Dr. Kathy will help educators understand Millennials through a very clear summary system. Identifying the six main characteristics of this generation and why they are the way they are is thought-provoking and encouraging. Frustrations about current students will become clear and inspiring ideas for increasing future success will be encouraging.
- **Full-day format:** Dr. Kathy will explain the characteristics of Millennials using the same summary. Their learning patterns will be explored, as demonstrated with the above examples. Educators will understand why certain teaching methods and assignments will work better than others. Motivation and communication suggestions will be included. Educators will begin personal applications by thinking of changes they can make.