

“Hidden Rules – Relationships & Results” BSW Research Project

DE&T Research Conference

Friday 25 November 2005

Session Title: Out of Sight, Out of Mind

A. The Project

- Based on the work of Dr. Ruby Payne's "*A Framework for Understanding Poverty*"
- Two day training session – The Hidden Rules of Economic Class
- One day reflection on current practice and selection of strategies from training
- Implementation of new strategies

B. Characteristics of Students at School

- Are very disorganized, bring many reasons why something is missing
- Don't do homework, only do part of an assignment, see only part of what is on a page
- Can't seem to get started, decide whether they will or won't work in your class based on whether or not they like you
- Are physically aggressive, talk back, dislike authority, cannot monitor their own behavior, laugh when they are disciplined
- Like to entertain, tell stories in the casual register structure
- Don't know or use middle class courtesies

C. The Hidden Rules

	Poverty	Middle Class	Wealth
Money	To be spent	To be managed	To be invested
Personality	For entertainment	For acquisition & stability	For connections
Food	Quantity	Quality	Presentation
Clothing	Individual style	Quality and label	Designer
Education	Abstract	Climbing ladder	Connections
Time	Present	Future	Past
Language	Casual – Survival	Formal - negotiation	Formal - networking
Family	Matriarchal	Patriarchal	Depends on \$\$

D. Policy Context

- **Blueprint for Government Schools**
 - Targeted School Improvement
 - Building Skills of Education Workforce
 - Catering for Diverse Student Needs
- **A Fairer Victoria**
 - Addressing Social Disadvantage

E. The Project Focus

Trial Research Strategies in Seven Participating Schools

a) Ruby Payne's Literature on Discipline

- Lists behaviours, explains reasons for behaviour, suggests interventions
- Stresses the voice of negotiation
 - Child voice
 - Parent voice
 - Adult voice

The Project Focus cont.

b) Teaching Hidden Rules

- Identifies that rules for the street and rules for the school are different
- Tells teachers to detail the rules to help students be successful where they currently are at school
- Tells teachers to teach formal register because it is the register of the middle class

The Project Focus (cont)

c) Concrete to Abstract

Tells teachers how to directly teach skills related to

- Planning
- Labelling
- Questioning
- Sorting

F. Methodology

Action Research in 7 schools

- Planning
- Preparing
- Implementing
- Reflecting
- Modifying Practice

G. Timeline 2005/2006

Term 4	2005	Application to DE&T/Schools identified	Approval required
9/10 February	2006	2 day training	Hidden Rules of Class
22 February	2006	Research Strategies Selected	Action Research Planned
Term 2	2006	Strategies implemented	7 Geelong schools
30 June	2006	Report to DE&T	BSW Regional Office