

RHIP Mini-Grant Final Report for Bear Creek Elementary, Bend
“The DEN at Bear Creek- BRYT”
Reviewed by the Upstream Prevention Workgroup

Summary of Results:

- Bridge for Youth in Transition (BRYT) is designed to support students who experience significant trauma.
- Within BRYT, students are offered an adapted academic structure, a highly supportive environment, and specific policies and practices to promote good mental health and academic success.
- At Bear Creek, the program was known as The DEN (Therapeutically Designed Education and Nurturance).
- Staffing was a significant factor in our first year. We had multiple staff members quit throughout the year for a variety of factors (one of which is difficulty of role).
- We also realized that having students in a single space was not as beneficial as having them with their pro-social modeling peers.
- Over time, as student schedules were changed and needs more appropriately met, we saw some growth in a couple of students.
- We ended the year with our staffing significantly different than the beginning and students who needed the most modeling was with someone 1-1 all day.
- Although this model supported students, it is not sustainable long-term.
- During our next year, we are increasing our expertise with staffing considerations as well as creating more of a focus on teaching to improve lagging skills rather than simply "supervision coverage".
- With more instruction and practice, our hope is that students will begin to transfer these skills to be successful with same-age peers.

Story:

A student started the year needing significant support and was often frustrated that a paraprofessional was always "following them around". As the year progressed and relationships were created, this student shared their feelings and needs more readily with their support teacher. This student ended the year by expressing how much they loved their "helper", and they were excited for the new year. They are connected to our Bear Creek community now in a way they weren't before.