



## COUNSELING Q&A

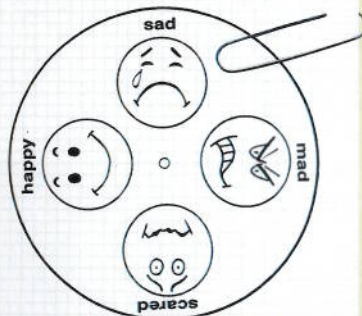
**Q:** Does a child's emotional health impact on learning?

**A:** Absolutely! And that's just why Dallastown Area School District has implemented the Elementary Counseling Program.

**Q:** How can I get involved?

**A:** Students may refer themselves for elementary counseling services by directly contacting their teacher or the counselor in their school. Parents who feel their child may benefit from services should contact the school counselor to refer their child.

Teachers may refer their students for appropriate services.



**Kids Have Feelings Too!**



## COUNSELING PROGRAM SERVICES

### Kids Groups

These groups help students who are experiencing a stressful situation in their lives. Held in confidence, the groups are facilitated by the school counselor.

Customized group activities allow the children to further develop individual coping skills and self-esteem. The groups meet each week during the school day for a 10-week cycle. Upon completion of the initial cycle, follow-up sessions are scheduled for an additional 10 weeks as necessary or as requested.

### Classroom Guidance Lessons

Counselors engage in classroom visitations to introduce themselves and the various guidance services available to students. During the classroom visits, self-esteem activities are conducted to enhance emotional and academic experiences for the students. Additional counseling topics are scheduled each marking period.

### Support Team Meetings

An additional approach in reaching out includes Child Support Teams comprised of teachers, the school principal, a school nurse, Instructional Support Team leaders, and the elementary counselor who meet regularly to identify, discuss, and find solutions to student concerns.

### Individual Counseling

Counseling services are available to any student on an as needed basis. Sessions are confidential and can be requested by the student, a parent, or a teacher.

### Parent Consultation

Counselors are available to confer with parents regarding issues that may affect a child's progress and performance in school.

### Big Buddy Program

Who better to serve as a role model than a successful teenager? The Dallastown Area School District Big Buddy Program has been lauded—and copied—statewide. By pairing high school student volunteers with a limited number of 1st through 3rd grade children having difficulty, Big Buddy/Little Buddy relationships flourish through weekly contact and field trips.

### Stay in School Program

Students report to the Guidance Office in the morning to encourage consistent daily attendance. Students have time to meet with the counselor as an extra support system.