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## Restorative Practice in the Elementary Classroom

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Oral Presentation ES O2.1

## **RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN THE ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM**

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Suspensions are still a widely used approach in school's discipline despite the lack of evidence that they prevent future misbehavior (Gregory, Clawson, Davis, & Gerewitz, 2016). Restorative practices are an alternative discipline method whose core values are to repair the harm, reduce the risks, and empower community. This approach focuses on developing coping and problem solving skills in students (Zehr, 2002). The purpose of this study is to explore how incorporating restorative practices in the classroom promote students' awareness of their behavior. Different classroom practices and curriculum were implemented to develop students' understanding of their behavior. I found that incorporating aspects of restorative practices and implementing lessons on mindfulness promoted positive interactions between students and provided an opportunity for students to develop common language to identify and understand one's own feelings.

