What is “carceral logic”?

An ideology and commitment to punishment and carcerality as a solution to dealing with “throwaway” people.
What is the school-to-prison nexus?

A complex, multilayered existence of carceral logic within schools that positions “Black and Brown bodies under constant observation and scrutiny” through policy, teacher praxis, school culture, admin praxis, etc...
Why a nexus and not a pipeline?

While the pipeline names the funneling of Black and Brown bodies into incarceration, the nexus names the connection between schools and other systems that treat Black and Brown people as disposable.
Educational Survival Complex

Educational Survival Complex is the ideology and systems that create the conditions for Black and Brown children to be excluded, decentralized, and dehumanized in Education. Since the inception of U.S. schooling, schools have been a site of spirit murdering for Black and Brown children, taking them further away from who they are and who they are called to be in this world. They are set up to merely survive, not thrive.¹
“Teachers who understand Black joy enter the classroom knowing that dark students knowing their history, falling in love with their history, and finding their voice is more important than grades.”

Dr. Bettina Love

We Want to do More Than Survive
How does the nexus show up in teacher praxis?

1. Strained relationships with “low-producing” students and strong relationships with “high-performing” students.

2. Time outs and isolation (solitary confinement for babies)
3. Control and surveillance of bodies.

   e.g. Dictating strict ways to sit, walk, or line up.

   e.g. Not teaching or upholding consent and boundaries.

How does the nexus show up in teacher praxis?
How does the nexus show up in teacher praxis?

4. Dehumanizing classroom management approach (e.g. time/structure, rigid routines and lack of relationship building).

5. Placing a high value on students’ ability to follow directions.
6. Expectation that all students should listen to the teacher, rather than an expectation on ourselves as teachers to earn relationship and trust with students

All of these lead to push out and suspension and all of these have the potential to create early childhood throwaways.
let’s take a collective breath
Reflection Activity

After hearing examples of practices that perpetuate the school to prison nexus, what top 2 practices can you identify in your own classroom?
1. Unhealthy values of productivity
2. Time outs and Isolation
3. Control and disposability of bodies
4. Dehumanizing classroom management
5. High value on direction following
6. Expectation of automatic deference
Reflection Activity

How might you change these 2 practices that perpetuate the STPN into practices that foster Black and Brown joy?
let’s take a collective breath
How do we disrupt the school to prison nexus in early childhood classrooms?

We must shift from a culture of “classroom management” to a culture of routines and rituals.
Daily Community Circles
How do community circles disrupt the nexus?

- Create a sense of community
- Allow students to tap into themselves and others
- Remove power and control away from teacher and back to students
How to conduct daily community circles

Step 1
Call students to sit in a circle in a rug or to find a comfortable space in their homes.

Step 2
Play soft, mindful music or soft drumming.

Step 3
Assign a chimekeeper to use a soft instrument that opens and closes circle.
How to conduct daily community circles

Step 4
Lead students in an intentional breathing activity.

Step 5
Model an affirmation that students repeat.

Step 6
Chimekeeper closes circle. End in collective affirmation song.
1. “Disruptive” movement of bodies

2. Baby cries

3. Students do anything else that’s not part of circle time

modeling abolitionist praxis
Personalize your breathing activity and your affirmation chant.
3 breathing activities
Special Offer

Anti-racist modules starting in September

10% discount using code: UnitedWay

Quetzalec.com
caendly.com/quetzal
References


Virtual Resources

1. Repurposing Our Pedagogies: Abolitionist Teaching in a Global Pandemic, A Webinar on How to Teach Through Tough Times
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9azT7_AyDQ4

2. Community Circle w/ Ms. Marylin: A Follow-Along Video for a Virtual Community Circle,
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxU6kZaOtpg&t=28s

3. Make a Peace Box w/ Ms. Marylin: A Step by Step Social Emotional Learning Tool for Distance Learning,
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6Vm2hZo-Rw&t=3s