

WORK THOUGHTS

By Candis Carr, Ed.D., LPC, LMFT, CEAP Associate Executive Director

Seeing Things Differently: A True Story

An engaging conference speaker tells the story about a young boy who was doing so poorly in school, both in his class work and behavior, that he was becoming known as *the bad kid*.

One of the biggest problems was his apparent refusal to complete tasks in a timely manner. In fact, many called him lazy. Some said he was just plain disrespectful, and others decided he was stubborn and determined only to cause problems. They joked that he even rode his bicycle so leisurely that it would take him forever to reach a destination.

Nevertheless, one teacher saw things differently and would often say, "Well, I see something different in that kid. There is something about him—something more than the obvious." And though others disagreed, this teacher remained hopeful about the boy's future.

One day the teacher had an idea. He recognized one of the boy's glaring strengths and decided to create a contest in which the boy could be seen in a different light. The name of the contest was: *The Slowest Bicycle Race*.

Sure enough, the boy entered and won the competition handily. He rode his bicycle so slowly that onlookers claimed the bike seemed not to be moving at all. Many praised his remarkable balance and wondered how he kept the bicycle from toppling over!

From that day forth, the boy's reputation changed. No longer labeled lazy and stubborn, he began regarding himself differently. He went on to make a grand success of his life, often telling the story of the teacher who made all the difference in his younger years.

The fun part of this almost unbelievable story is that when the questioned about the story's truthfulness, the speaker, an accomplished public school superintendent at the time, answered the doubtful questioner in the positive. "Yes," he smiled, "it's all true. I know, because it is I who won that unique race, and today I work to make the difference for others.

To learn more about seeing things differently and recognizing employees' inherent strengths, please contact **Performance** Employee Assistance and Business Services at 337-436-9533.



Performance Employee Assistance and Business Services
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220 Louie St., Lake Charles, LA, 70601
337-436-9533