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#### The Effects of Yoga Practice and Classroom Management in an Elementary School Setting

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#### Survey: Let us know how this paper benefits you.

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# THE EFFECTS OF YOGA PRACTICE AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT IN AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SETTING

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How does the integration of yoga practice in an elementary classroom support creating an environment that promotes self-confidence and attention to learning?



### Key Points:

- ▶ Yoga Body/Mind Connection and Brain Based Research
- Promoting Yoga in the Classroom and Classroom Management
- > Benefits special needs students, high risk and incarcerated youth

# YOGA BODY/MIND CONNECTION AND BRAIN BASED RESEARCH

- Reduces stress and anxiety
- Provides life-long tools
- Increases brain GABA levels

## PROMOTING YOGA IN THE CLASSROOM

- Accessibility for all students
- Relaxation response curriculum and student achievement
- YOGA ED. TOOLS FOR TEACHERS
- Developing authentic relationships is key to a successful classroom



### BENEFITS SPECIAL NEEDS, HIGH RISK AND INCARCERATED YOUTH

- GET READY TO LEARN, A MANUALIZED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM, DESIGNED WITH APPROPRIATE YOGA CURRICULUM FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER
- TRANSFORMATIVE LIFE SKILLS (TLS) MODEL CREATED BY THE NIROGA INSTITUTE IN OAKLAND, CA AND USED AT THE ALAMEDA COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER (ACJJC) AND AT EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL

# TEACHER ACTION RESEARCH

MIXED METHODS APPROACH





- QUANTITATIVE DATA: Focus Group
- QUALITATIVE DATA: Observations

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM RESEARCH

- TEACHING BREATHING TECHNIQUES
- VISUALIZATION AS MEDITATION
- PLAY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOGA
- COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

#### IN CONCLUSION... EXCERPTS FROM POST FOCUS GROUP

#### WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOGA OFFERED OR INTEGRATED INTO YOUR CLASS SCHEDULE?

- "Yes yoga is so fun I like it better than a electronics game."
- "I would do yoga breathing when I want to relax."
- "Yes, because it is really fun to do."
- " I would because you can calm down."
- "Yes I would because I think it would really help me in class and at home when I have problems,
- "Yes, even if it was 15 minutes, I remember leaving feeling relaxed and fresh. Yoga would definitely make a difference in my school work."
- "Yes because I can do math, social studies, ELA and PE better."

#### REFERENCES

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Hagen & Nayar, U. S. (2014). Yoga for children and young people's mental health and well-being: Research review and reflections on the mental health potentials of yoga. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*.

Streeter, C. C., Jensen, E., Perlmutter, R. M., Cabral, D. A., Tian, H., Terune, D.B., et al. (2007). Yoga asana sessions increase brain GABA levels: A pilot study. *The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*, 13(4), 419-426.

## REFLECTIONS FROM MY RESEARCH STUDY...

BREATHING, MOVEMENT AND MEDITATION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ONE CHILD'S LIFE.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION IN RELAXATION PRACTICE